

3. A Christian also has to learn to exercise **GRATITUDE**. We look past what's given to us & we focus on what's still lacking. God would rather that you start with nothing and that you count it all grace as you take stock from there of what you have.

- Read Luke 7:41-42 and write out what your grateful to God for.

4. Christians must learn to exercise **CONTENTMENT**. Contentment is longing for what you've been given. Contentment means you don't tie your well being to something you don't have or can't control. You find your contentment in what you've been given. Even more, you find your contentment in God Himself, which is the true secret of being content in all circumstances

- Read the following verses & comment as your heart leads.

- Luke 12:15

- Philippians 4:10-20

5. Read Psalm 16:5-6. Pray about whatever comes to your heart.

**Remember to sign-up for a  
Community Group before they fill up!**

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FROM JOSHUA  
Sermon #12  
Joshua 13-19

Rev. Bill Impey  
**Grace**...a community church  
September 6, 2009

## To Each His Own

### 3 Kinds of Comparison

**The 1<sup>st</sup> kind of comparison leads to boasting.**

What the Bible says about this kind of comparison? - **Don't do it!**  
*Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else,* - Galatians 6:4

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> kind of comparison leads to envy.**

What the Bible says about this kind of comparison? - **Get rid of it!**  
*Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.* - 1 Peter 2:1

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> kind of comparison leads to imitation.**

What the Bible says about this kind of comparison? - **Go for it!**  
*Never be lacking in zeal,* - Romans 12:11

Next week: **"Cities of Refuge"** Joshua 20

*Remember your leaders who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcomes of their way of life and imitate their faith*

- Hebrews 13:7 [see also 6:12]

*Follow my example as I follow the example of Christ - 1 Corinthians 11:1  
Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me  
—put it into practice*

- Philippians 4:9 [see also 3:17]

*Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God - Ephesians 5:1-2 [see also 5:25 & Matt. 5:48]*

### - What does comparisons produce?

#### 1- **Discontentment** with ourselves

*Why can't I be more this? Or have more of that?*

#### 2- **Resentment** towards others

*How did she end up getting that? She doesn't deserve that! I do!*

#### 3- **Ingratitude** towards God

*What was God thinking when He gave me this, or withheld that?*

*If God really loved me, He would have given me this.*

In Joshua 13-19 God wasn't just establishing boundaries - *From one man [God] made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth, and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. **God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.** For in him we live and move and have our being.*

- Acts 17:26-28

## Food for Thought

For the week of September 6, 2009  
(Questions and Scriptures for further personal study)

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*Community Groups are on summer break, but they'll resume the week of September 20<sup>th</sup>.*

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### How to combat **COMPARING & ENVY** in your life.

1. Christians have to learn to exercise **TRUST**. Trust that God has your best interests at heart.  
- *Read Jeremiah 29:11, then write what this verse personally means to you in a current circumstance in your life.*

2. *What sorrow awaits those who argue with their Creator. Does a clay pot argue with its maker? Does the clay dispute with the one who shapes it, saying, "Stop, you're doing it wrong!" Does the pot exclaim, "How clumsy can you be?" How terrible it would be if a newborn baby said to its father, "Why was I born?" or if it said to its mother, "Why did you make me this way?" This is what the Lord says - the Holy One of Israel and your Creator: "Do you question what I do for my children? Do you give me orders about the work of my hands?" (Isaiah 45:9-11 NLT)*

Christians have to learn to exercise **ACCEPTANCE**. Accepting your life & its circumstances means accepting who you are, and what you have, is a generous gift from God's hand.

- *Rather than complaining and wishing your circumstances were different, spend a few moments writing what things God has been faithful to give you.*

**Then you can cultivate & develop the land you've been given!**