



Hebrews 13:5

The Taproot of All Evil and Its Antidote

What is a root?

A root is a part of the body of a plant that grows downward into the soil, anchoring the plant and absorbing nutrients and moisture.



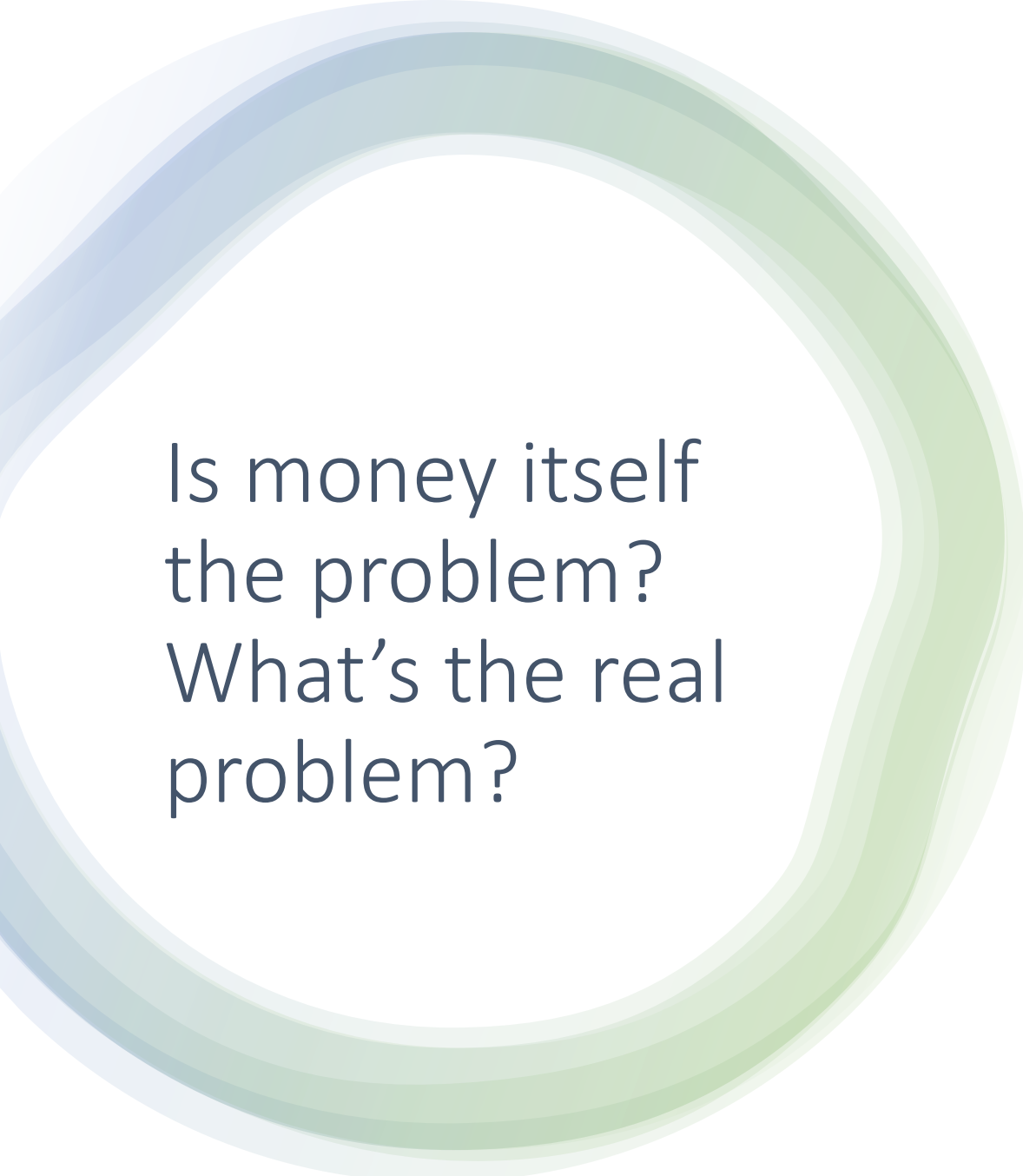
Jeremiah 17:7-8

⁷ “Blessed *is* the man who trusts in the LORD,
And whose hope is the LORD.

⁸ For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters,
Which **spreads out its roots by the river**,
And will not fear when heat comes;
But its leaf will be green,
And will not be anxious in the year of drought,
Nor will cease from yielding fruit.”

1 Timothy 6:10

“For the love of money is a **root of all kinds of evil**, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”



Is money itself
the problem?
What's the real
problem?


- Money is any article or substance of value used as a medium of exchange or means of payment.
- Money, itself, is just a tool.
- It's the love of money (covetousness) that is evil. Desiring it inordinately and wrongfully without due regard for the rights of others.
- The love of money will cause me to lose sight of serving God (no longer want, need or depend on Him) and could further drive me to lie, cheat, steal, or take advantage of the weak and poor.



What is a taproot?

A taproot is the **large, central, and dominant root from which other roots sprout laterally.**

Typically, a taproot is somewhat straight and very thick, is tapering in shape, and grows directly downward.



So, what's the
taproot of all
evil?

Hebrews 13:5

Keep your lives free from the love of money and **be content** with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

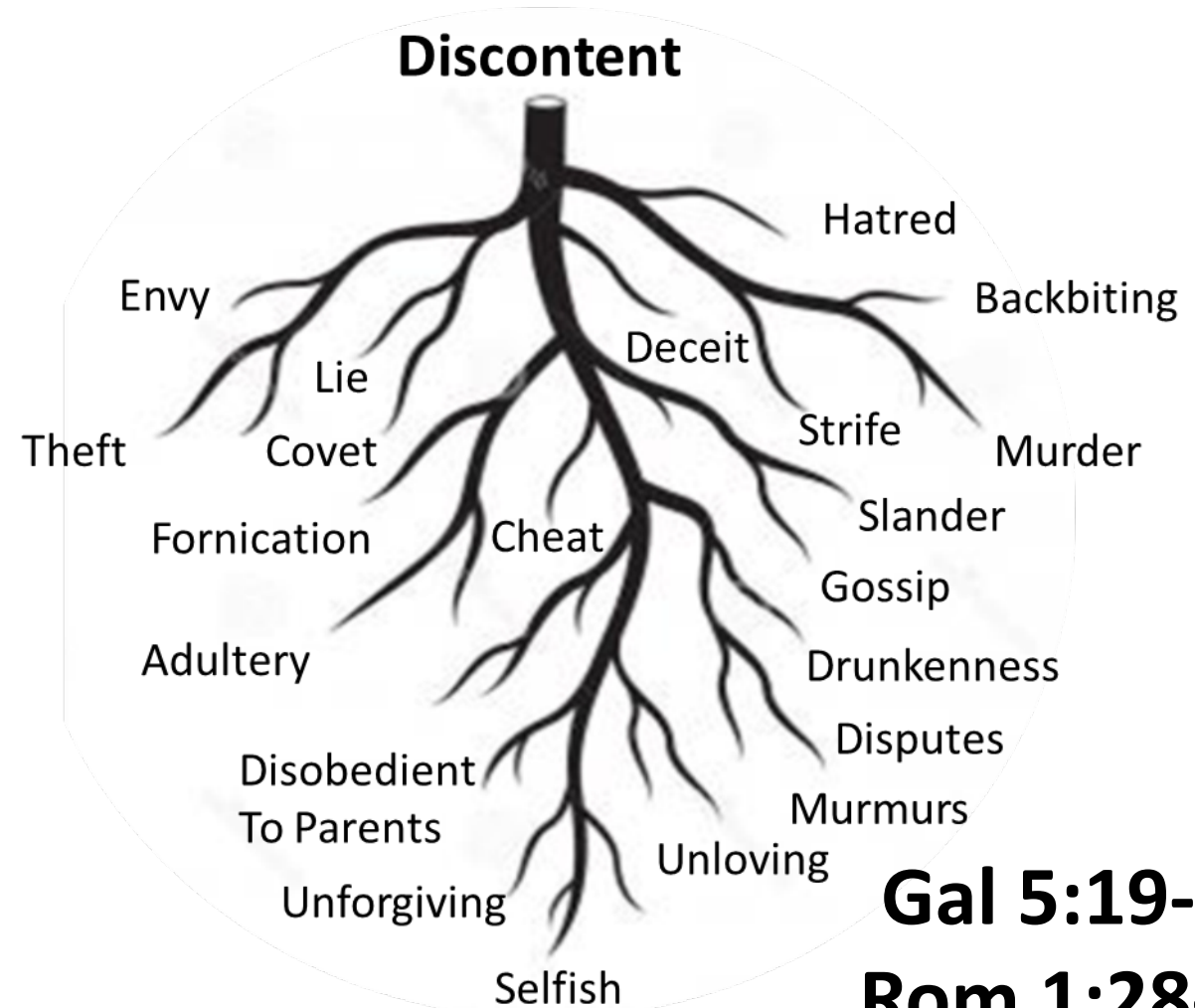
- So, if being content is the antidote or solution for the love of money, what is the driver, cause or “taproot of all evil”?

“Discontent”

All evil branches off the taproot of Discontent

Discontented with our:

- Possessions
- Relationships
- Self Image
- Situations
- Restrictions
- Happiness/Joy
- Station in Life
- Blessings from God




Gal 5:19-21
Rom 1:28-32



Discontent is the biggest problem / challenge in my life

- Contentment is the state of being satisfied with what one is or has, not wanting more or anything else.
- Discontent is a restless desire for something one does not have.

-- Dictionary Definitions



The last year with
COVID-19
continues to be a
contentment trial

- It challenged our entire country
 - Death and suffering
 - Assembly and business restrictions
 - Business failures and job losses
- It has especially been a trial and test for those of us in the Church
 - Assembly and bible class restrictions
 - Social distancing
 - Mask wearing
 - Physical isolation
 - Unequal risks among our members
 - Differing perspectives/attitudes

I just want things to go back to the way they were before COVID-19

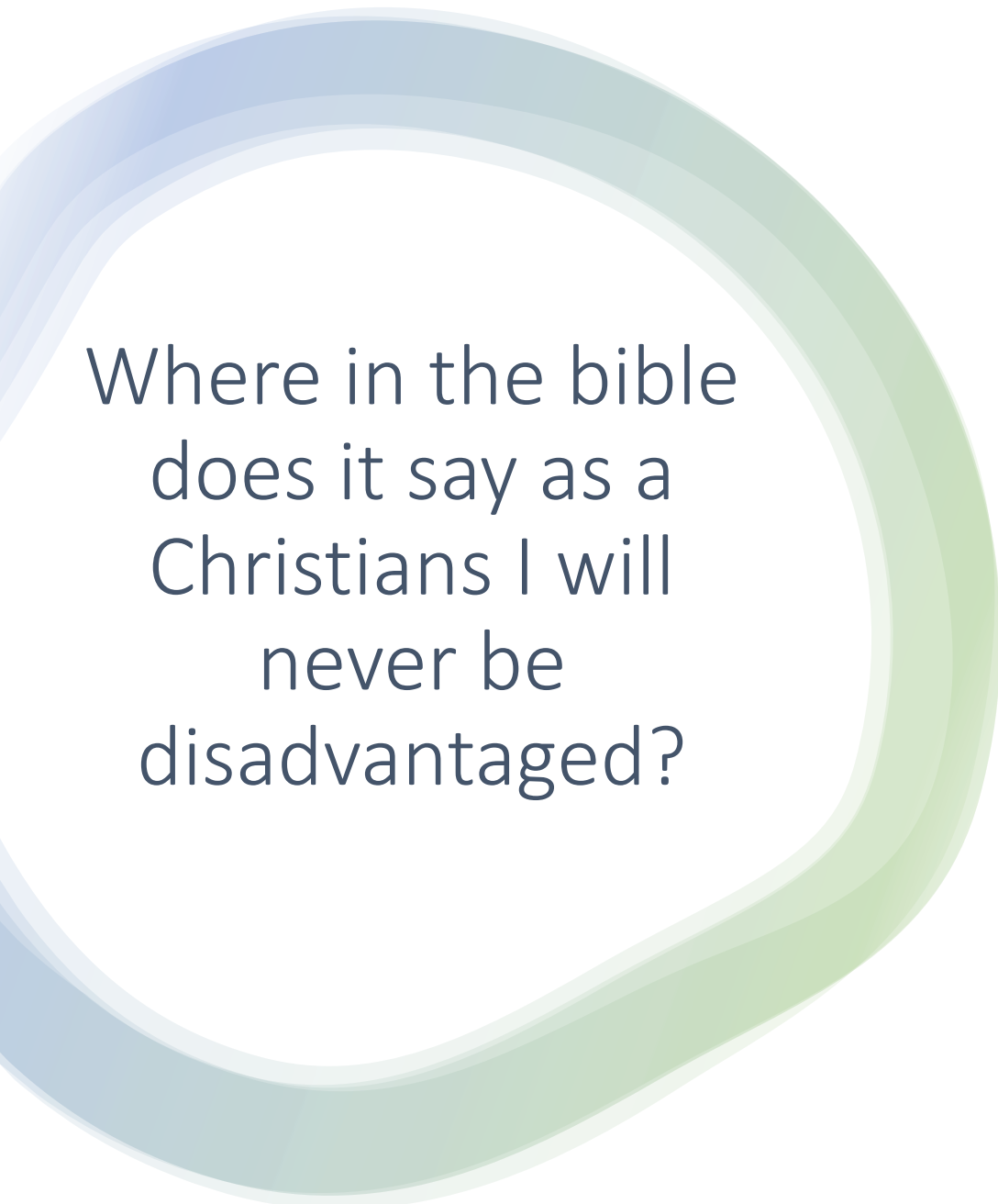
- I dislike what I view as unfair or infringing on my rights
- I dislike being disadvantaged or deprived
- All based on my own personal situation and assessment
- I just want to be done with it! I want it to be over!

So where does contentment come in?

Philippians 4:11-12

¹¹ Not that I speak in regard to need, for I **have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:** ¹² I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things, I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

Can I say that the truth of God's word in this passage does not apply to our current COVID-19 situation? ***“Everywhere and in in all things”***




Where in the bible
does it say as a
Christians I will
never be
disadvantaged?

Gen 13:5-13 – Abraham disadvantaged himself giving Lot the first choice of where to pasture his flocks and herds – yet he accepted it and prospered

Gen 37, 39 – Joseph was disadvantaged by his brothers' sale of him, as a slave into Egypt, and also by the lie of Potiphar's wife placing him in prison – yet he accepted it and prospered

James 1:2-4

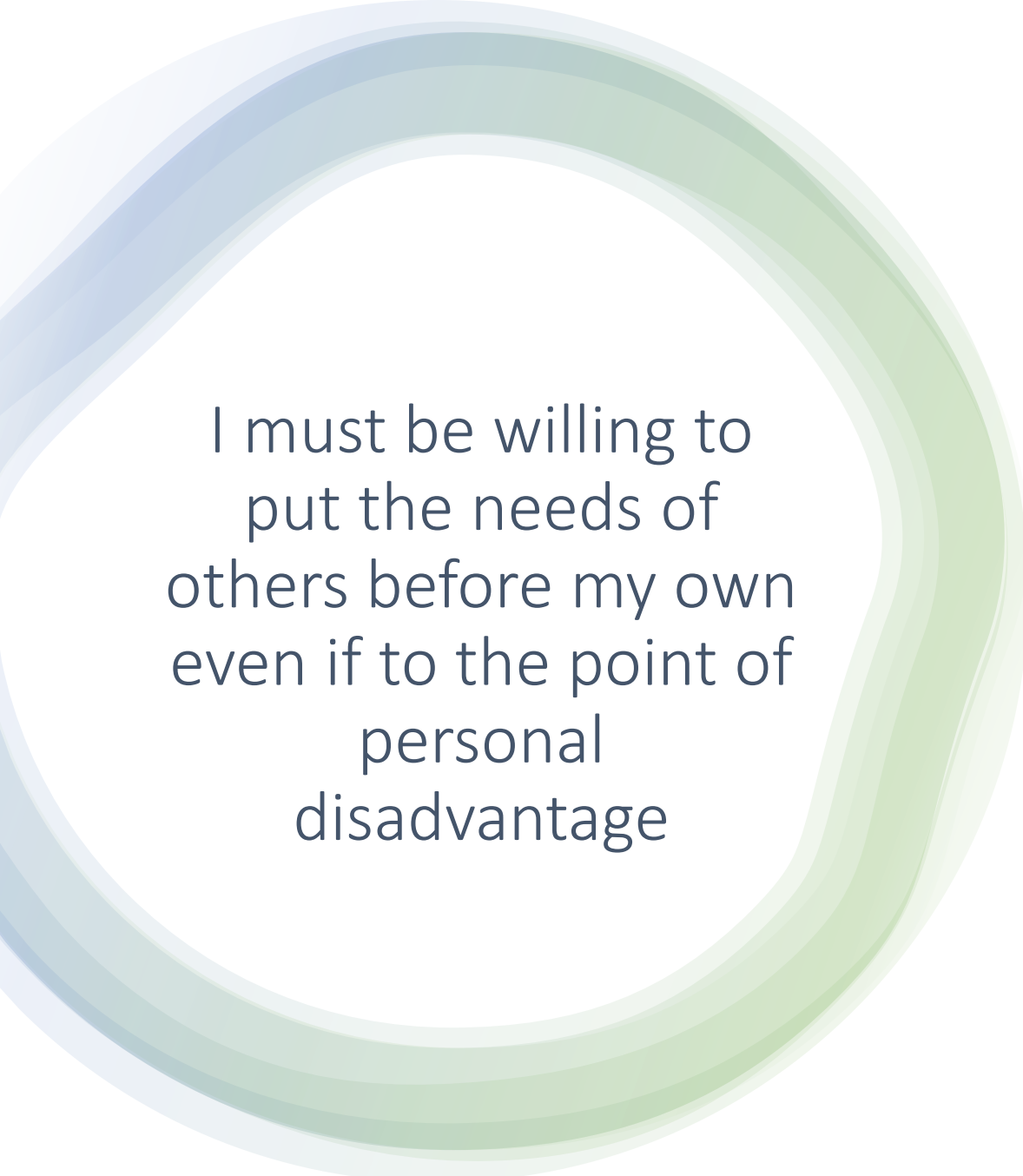
² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴ But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.



Conversely, my
taproot must be
rooted and
grounded in LOVE

Ephesians 3:16-19

¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷ that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, **being rooted and grounded in love**, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height— ¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.



I must be willing to
put the needs of
others before my own
even if to the point of
personal
disadvantage

Philippians 2:3-5

³ *Let nothing be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. ⁴ **Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.** ⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

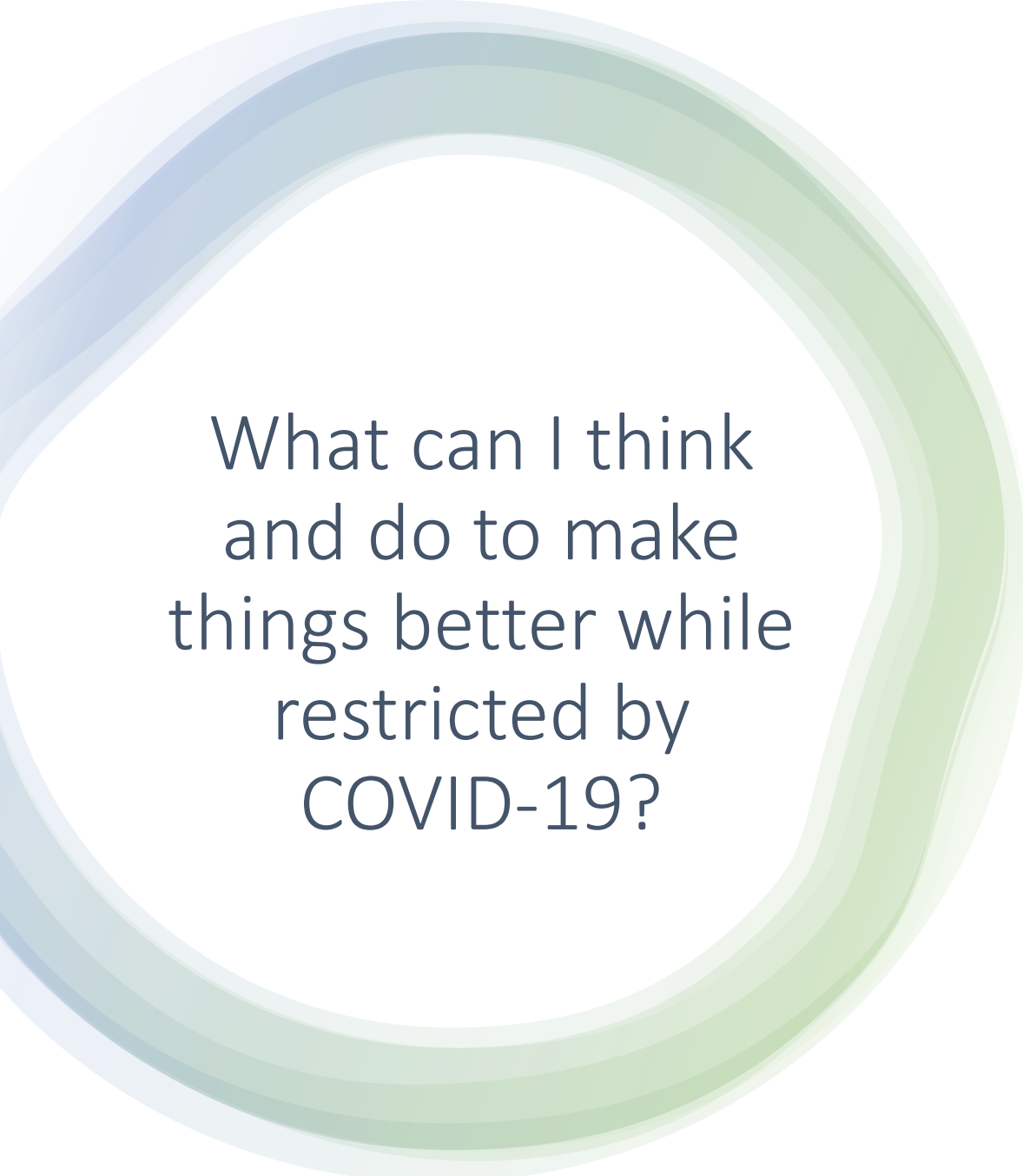
Hebrews 12:14-15

¹⁴ Pursue peace with all *people*, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: ¹⁵ looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; **lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble**, and by this many become defiled;




What are the keys to a Christian's contentment?

- Trusting in God's providential care....
 - Heb 13:5-6
- Knowing that you can't take material things with you when you die....
 - 1 Tim 6:7
- Focus on what are the truly essential and important things in life...
 - Matt 6:25-33
- Understanding that material things don't satisfy...
 - Eccl 6:7
- Contentment is a gift from God...
 - Eccl 2:24-26
 - Psa 107:8-9



What can I think
and do to make
things better while
restricted by
COVID-19?

- Search out the lessons God wants me to learn and things He wants me to do during the COVID-19 situation
 - What's the silver lining?
 - How can I grow?
- Remember that all members may not have the same circumstances and needs that I do, but all feel a sense of loss and isolation
 - Look and see beyond myself
- While I'm isolated from normal, full assembly reach out to others in our church family
 - Calls, Texts, Write or Personal Visits
 - Use the communication technologies available
 - What nice thing can I do for someone else?
 - Who can I touch today?
- Study my Bible on my own, with my family or with another person or family



Why and how do I
maintain
contentment when
my feelings lack
contentment?

Jeremiah 17:7-8

⁷ “Blessed is the man who **trusts in the Lord**,
And whose **hope is the Lord**. ⁸ For he shall be
like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads
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all the fullness of God.



Why and how do
I fill my taproot
with
contentment?

Remember.....

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SOWING & REAPING GODLY CONTENTMENT

R
E
A
P

Godly Attitude



Godly Behavior



Godly Habit



Godly Character



S
O
W



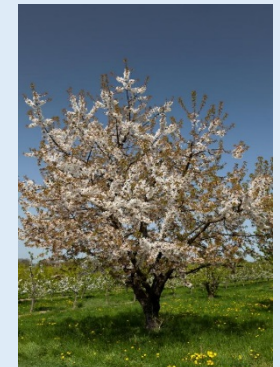
Godly Thought



Godly Attitude



Godly Behavior



Godly Habit