

“Learning Contentment”

With all of our circumstances in 2020, it seems that it is particularly hard to be content during this season.

An uncontrolled desire to acquire/accumulate is called _____ in the Bible. Today we call it _____

“It’s better to be content with what you have. Otherwise you will always be struggling for more and that’s like chasing the wind.” - Ecclesiastes 4:6

What Coveting/Materialism Does to Us

1. _____

“Don’t wear yourself out to get rich. Have the wisdom to show restraint.” - Proverbs 23:4

2. _____

“The more you have, the more you spend.” - Ecclesiastes 5:11

3. _____

“The working man can get a good night’s sleep but the rich man has so much that he stays awake worrying.” - Ecclesiastes 5:12

4. _____

“Don’t you know where these fights and arguments come from? They come from the selfish desires that war within you.” - James 4:1

5. _____

“You will never be satisfied if you long to be rich. You’ll never get all you want.” - Ecclesiastes 5:10

The reason why things don’t satisfy is because things don’t _____, but we do.

The secret of contentment is to learn to be content with what I’ve got.

“I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation.” - Philippians 4:12

Contentment is not automatic or natural for us. We’re not naturally content - we are naturally discontented. Contentment is a Christian virtue that we’ve got to learn.

Three Actions I must Choose in Order to Learn Contentment

1. Choose to be _____ for what I have.

“If God gives a man wealth and property he should be grateful and enjoy what he has. It is a gift from God.” - Ecclesiastes 5:19 (GN)

The reason we aren’t grateful for what we already have is because we get ourselves into the “_____ and _____” thinking trap.

Happiness is not getting everything I want; happiness is enjoying what I already have.

“God richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.” - 1 Timothy 6:17

The key to a grateful heart is: _____

“We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves. It is not wise.” - 2 Corinthians 10:12

Learn to admire without having to acquire.

2. Choose to be _____ with what I have.

- see 1 Timothy 6:17-19

God says to make as much as we can as long as we follow Four important precautions:

1. Don’t be _____, (17)

True value isn’t determined by how much we have, but by what we do with the little or the much we have.

2. Don’t _____ in your _____, (17)

3. Use your money to _____, (18)

4. Give _____ to those in _____, (18)

Giving is the only antidote to the disease of materialism.

The world says get all you can, keep it for yourself. God says every time you give it away you’re saying “No. I will not be sucked up in the culture that says ‘Live only for myself.’ I choose to break the grip of selfishness and discontentment by being generous.”

The benefit of giving:

“By doing this they will be storing up treasure as a good foundation for the future.”(19)

My generosity reveals my priorities and how much I love God.

Generosity shows what I’m really like inside.

God is generous, and we are most like God when we’re generous.

3. Choose to be _____ about what I have.

To be Godly means that I must maintain the right perspective on temporary possessions.

“We fix our attention not on things that are seen but on things that are unseen. What can be seen lasts only for a time but what cannot be seen lasts forever.”

- 2 Corinthians 4:18

God is saying that nothing I see is going to last... the things that really count in life are things I can’t see.

- See Luke 12:13-21