

#GetOverYourSelfie

Contentment over Greed

1 Timothy 6:6-8

But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we bought nothing into the world and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing we will be content with that.

1 Timothy 6:6-8

Dictionary Definition . . . Contentment is a state of happiness and satisfaction.

Greed is the enemy of contentment.

Both greed and contentment are states of the heart.

Contentment is **COMMENDED** in 1 Timothy 6:6
. . . **"godliness with contentment is great gain."**

Contentment is **COMMANDED** in Hebrews 13:5
. . . **"be content with what you have."**

Healthy, mature, Christlike followers of Jesus live a life marked by contentment. To do otherwise is to deny the power of God and the wisdom of God and the place of God in our lives.

Living in today's culture, it's easy to forget that contentment is one of the greatest privileges and joys of following Jesus!

I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.

Philippians 4:12-13

When Paul says that he has learned the secret of being content is he saying that he knows the secret pathway to contentment or is he saying that he knows, what so many do not, that contentment has a power about it that brings peace and joy and celebration of life like nothing else? And he is experiencing contentment in its fullness.

Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.' So we may boldly say: 'The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?'"

Hebrews 13:5-6

Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless.

Ecclesiastes 5:10

WHAT CONTENTMENT IS NOT?

- It is not denying one's feelings about unhappiness but it is a freedom from being controlled by those feelings
- It is not pretending things are right when they are not but it is experiencing the peace that comes from knowing that God is large and in charge.
- It is not the complacency that defeats any attempt to make things better but instead it is the willingness to work tirelessly for improvement clinging to God rather than the results.
- It is not a feeling of well-being contingent on keeping circumstances under control, but instead it is a joy that exists in spite of circumstances and a trusting in the God who never changes.
- It is not the comfortable feeling we get when all our needs and desires are met but instead it is the security in knowing, as A W Tozer reminds us, that "The person who has God for his treasure has all things in One."

Adapted from Margin by Richard Swenson p 188

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE CONTENT?

- I am not looking to things, position, money, power, recognition, experiences and so on to find meaning, security, purpose and joy in my life. I am finding all those in Jesus.
- I am accepting my present circumstances as fully in the hands of God even while I may seek to change them through prayer, counsel, activity and so on, leaving the results in the hands of God.

Contentment is the freedom that comes when prosperity or poverty do not matter.

I wish everyone could become rich and famous and do everything they ever dreamed of so that they could see that it is not the answer.

Jim Carey