

Lord, To An Attitude Of Contentment

2 August, 2009



An Attitude of Contentment

You will know you are discontent when you feel left behind.

You know you are contented when you are thankful for what you have instead of resentful for what you do not have.

Biblical Path To Contentment (1 Tim. 6: 6-10 NIV):

But godliness with Contentment is great gain.

For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.

Some people eager for money have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

3 Steps To An Attitude of Contentment:

Step 1: Look To eternity.

Step 2: Let enough be enough.

Step 3: Learn by example.

Discussion questions

1. Do you agree with the formula that Godliness with Contentment = Great Gain (1 Tim. 6:6) is the only true formula for Christian? Give reasons for your answer.

Contentment is the only quality or state of the heart and the mind that puts a limit on desire or want. All other factors that go with godliness have no definable limits. The definable limit for contentment is what God has provided for each one of us in our individual circumstances. It comes from God and depends on God. Other than contentment, everything else is defined by the limit or capacity of each individual's desire. God is not involved.

2. Are seeking gain wrong or sinful? When does seeking gain become a sin? What do you think Paul means by "great gain"?

Wanting gain is not necessary wrong. Wanting gain becomes sin only when you want it at all cost or when it replaces God in your heart. Great gain is when you are contented in every circumstance. (Phil. 4:11.). See also 1 Tim 6: 17-19.

3. To develop an attitude of contentment, does it mean that we have to curtail our ambition? Is contentment and ambition mutually exclusive?

Note to facilitators: you may start by explaining what does "mutually exclusive" mean. Contentment has nothing to do with curtailing your ambition. In fact, it is the exact opposite. Contentment is all about how to live more abundantly and fulfilling in Christ. It is about learning to be joyful and getting the most out of what God has provided. It is about how to go deeper into the great things of God. It is about wanting more of Christ and less of everything else. Don't be lukewarm, be ambitious in Christ.

4. When the Israelites were wandering in the desert, God gave them only manna to eat. What lessons do you think God wanted to teach them by providing only enough manna for their daily needs and no more?

Discipline, trust and obey, dependency on the sufficiency of God and enough is enough (any left over will turn bad).

God's forbidden of the collection of manna on Sabbath day is to teach His people to "rest". Resting in biblical context means to take time to meditate on God's Word, to reflect on our work and walk with God, to reflect on the blessings of God. In secular world context, rest means more work – working hard at enjoying our leisure (e.g. let's hurry before the shop closes).

God also forbid the storing up of the manna. He is teaching His people not to hoard. (Matt. 6: 19-20)

Jesus regard the manna as a foreshadow of Himself (John 6: 32-33)