

Christian Contentment

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Straight Paths Bible Church

1 Timothy 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

Contentment: a resting or satisfaction of mind without disquiet; acquiescence (A quiet assent; a silent submission) Contentment, without external honor, is humility.

CONTENT, Rest or quietness of the mind in the present condition; satisfaction which holds the mind in peace, restraining complaint, opposition, or further desire, and often implying a moderate degree of happiness. Acquiescence; satisfaction without examination ...in other words to put it in God's hands.

- I. To be content is to be at peace and rest.
 - A. It is to stop looking and reaching and wanting things and favorable circumstances.
 - B. It is to realize what we have and be at rest with it.
 - C. It is to realize what we have and to do with it what we can, where we are.
 - D. It is to resign ourselves to where we are, what we have, and what we are able to do.
 - E. It is not defeat; that is to count all as lost; to suffer defeat is to be vanquished and have all your hopes dashed.
 - F. Contentment is to find rest and satisfaction in what you have, where you are, with the knowledge that Divine wisdom and love has so ordained it as best for you.

- II. To be content is also command of God.

Hebrews 13:5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

1 Timothy 6:8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

- A. We should be content because God tells us to.
 - 1. Because it is pleasing to God.
 - 2. Because it is good and right for us to be content.
 - 3. And He always directs our view to that which will make us content.
 - B. If God commands us to be content then it is something that we can do, it is not impossible for us.
 - C. When we are not content it is because we are not trusting God with what He is doing in our life and we think we could do much better than He is doing with it.
 - 1. So discontent is born of unbelief and no where else.
 - D. When we are not content we are saying to God that we are not happy with him and do not appreciate what He does for us, and we do not trust Him.
 - 1. Discontentment is like filing a complaint against God.
 - 2. Think about how offensive and hurtful that is to us when someone we love thinks of us that way and treats us that way.
 - E. Contentment is not made of self-confidence, self-sufficiency, lack of initiative, laziness, or defeatism
- III. To be content is learned with time and experience.

Philippians. 4:11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

- A. The hardships of life and the suffering of loss, will eventually teach us that being content is so much more pleasant than being discontent.
- B. Being satisfied with the present state of things makes life a joy.
- C. Being dissatisfied with the present state of things makes life a misery.
- D. We learn that the grass is not greener on the other side.
- E. We learn that while we are being discontent with the present we are missing the blessings of life.
 - 1. Later we will realize that we should have slowed down and enjoyed what we had while we had it. (“Don’t miss the water until the well runs dry.”)
- F. We learn that all that is out there in the world is not so much better than the simple things we have.

IV. To be content is a matter of our will and simply deciding to be content.

Psalm 118:24 This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

- A. We can make up our mind to be content with what we have.
- B. We can deliberately be thankful and thoughtfully appreciate the things we DO have, no matter how small or unimportant they may seem.
- C. As we mature we should begin to realize that life is a book whose pages are turning, and whose chapters end, and begin, so we savor each one while we are living it, and not miss it while trying to skip ahead, or look back at what we have already come through.

V. Contentment is the result of God’s work of sanctification in your life.

1 Timothy 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

Psalm 17:15 As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.

- A. The closer we get to God, the more content we will be.
- B. The more we recognize and behold the works of God, the more content we will be.
- C. The less we look upon the works of man on earth, the more content we will be.
- D. The more that our life diminishes and God himself fills the voids, the more content we will be.
 - 1. Human reason says that the more we have the more content we will be.
 - 2. But God says the less we have, the more content we will be.

1 Timothy 6:8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

Luke 12:15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

- 3. It just doesn’t take a lot to make us content.
- E. When we learn to be satisfied with God we will be content in this world.
- F. And as long as we search for satisfaction in the things of the world the more discontented we will become.
- G. Count your blessings. Add them up together. Recognize the value of the people in your life right now. Find your contentment in knowing that God is directing your life by steps – days, months, years, decades, and will not do you wrong.

