

Sermon Series: Pursuing Godliness

Sermon Title: A Godly Person is a Content Person

August 4, 2019

Today's Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:6–8 But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. (ESV)

Introduction: Round it out in your own mind. How much is your net worth? Include your checking, savings, stocks IRA's house etc. How much is it? Did you add in everything this verse implies? Romans 8:16–17 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. (ESV) And if we are heirs with Christ then everything He owns we own, right? Psalm 50:10–11 For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine. (ESV) So if we own it all, and can get it when we need it the most, is there anything that you must have? The Greek word for contentment is autarkeia and it means *this 1) a perfect condition of life in which no aid or support is needed 2) sufficiency of the necessities of life 3) a mind contented with its lot, contentment*

Main point: A godly person is one who is becoming so aware of God's sovereign will and His abundant grace that he is totally satisfied with his current lot in life.

1. A godly person is aware that a discontented person is never at peace. A greed for power, money or pleasure is all consuming and never-ending.
 - It is all-consuming because it is the root of all emotions. Call it a driving force, it taints every underlying attitude. For example:
 - At a restaurant a wife smiles and tells her husband how much she loves him and is enjoying the meal but his response is only a half smile because he is thinking he wished he could have ordered the prime rib but couldn't because his card is maxed out.
 - You can replay that scenario in a hundred different ways. House, boat, car, children.
 - Here is an opportunity to examine your own heart. How much of your attitude is controlled by what you don't have?
 - It is never-ending because the cure is found in only one place, J.C. And unless a person is willing to surrender to His will, the continuous frustration of discontentment will go on and on.
 - Imagine the lost hours of pleasure. How do you put a price tag on enjoying every moment of your spouse and children and grandchildren? A discontented person

pays a price they never think about until it's time to think what you want on your tombstone.

2. A godly person is aware that some of Scripture's strongest admonitions are against coveting.
 - *Luke 12:15 And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." (ESV)*
 - *1 Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. (ESV)*
 - *Qualification for elder: 1 Timothy 3:3 not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. (ESV)*
 - *2 Timothy 3:2 For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, (ESV)*
 - *Hebrews 13:5 Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." (ESV)*

3. A godly person is aware that some of the Bible's harshest punishments were caused by greed.
 - Achan in Ai, Annanias and Sapphira in Jerusalem. We think that because God no longer punishes us with death or disease like he did here then his attitude toward these sins must have changed. They are no longer a big deal. But what makes these sins such big deal?
 - My son-in-laws and I bought our children and grandchildren a go-kart. How would we feel if the kids enjoyed racing it around the track and when done, got out and kissed the go-kart several times and we overheard them say "Oh thank you go-kart for bringing me so much joy"! This is exactly what we are doing when we chase money power or pleasure as our ultimate. We are kissing steel.

4. A godly person is aware of God's sovereignty in all things.
 - *Romans 8:28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (ESV)* But, we say, what about. . . ? Do you say that? Then this verse is not true for you. David knew the source of all wealth and blessing
 - *1 Chronicles 29:12 Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. (ESV)* Again, if we say, but certainly God did not mean for that to happen to me, then this verse needs to be taken out of all our Bible's or maybe just yours.

- *John 21:21–22 When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, “Lord, what about this man?” Jesus said to him, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!” (ESV)*
 - Regarding spiritual gifts and positions within the church: *1 Corinthians 12:7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (ESV) 1 Corinthians 12:18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. (ESV)*
5. A godly person is aware of God’s abundant grace. There is absolutely nothing we need that we don’t already have or will have when the need arises.
- *Ephesians 3:20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, (ESV)*
 - *James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. (ESV)*
 - *2 Corinthians 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. (ESV)*
 - *Philippians 4:19 And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. (ESV)*
 - *Psalms 36:7–8 How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights. (ESV)*

Application

How do we overcome coveting and learn to be content?

1. Allow the HS to use Scripture to remind us of God’s faithfulness. Hebrews 13:5 ought to be a go-to verse. Memorize, Meditate, and Mean it.
2. Accept the fact that we do not deserve even what we have.
3. Paul had a secret to contentment *Philippians 4:11 Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. (ESV)* He learned that after his visit to heaven, *2 Corinthians 12:9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. (ESV)*