

**Overview:**

Contentment is being grateful for, and satisfied with, what God has given us. It is a fundamental character quality in our lives that allows us to truly experience the joyful Christian life. Covetousness is the counter part of contentment and can be summed up as simply wanting what you can't have.

**Outline:****I. Coveting: A root cause of dissatisfaction**

- A. Proverbs 27:20 Death and Destruction are never satisfied, and neither are the eyes of man.

**II. Where contentment ends, coveting begins****III. Coveting will tear you down**

- A. It will consume your:
  - 1. Heart - Matthew 6:21
  - 2. Mind - Ecclesiastes 5:12
  - 3. Strength - Proverbs 23:4
- B. Can lead to compulsive behavior
  - 1. Ecclesiastes 5:10
- C. Can end in moral failure
  - 1. Proverbs 5:18-20

**IV. The keys to contentment.**

- A. Separate the "I've got/need to have \_\_\_\_\_" from the "I'd like to have"
- B. Stop looking at your neighbor's stuff (or your neighbor).
- C. Understand that more stuff does not equate with more satisfaction
- D. God has already blessed you. Be thankful!
  - 1. 2 Peter 1:3, 2 Corinthians 9:8
  - 2. 1 Tim 6:6-8 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

## Supporting Material:

### Verses:

#### Covetousness

**Exod 20:17** "You shall not *covet* your neighbor's house. You shall not *covet* your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

**Deut 5:21** "You shall not *covet* your neighbor's wife. You shall not *set your desire* on your neighbor's house or land, his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

**Deut 7:25** The images of their gods you are to burn in the fire. Do not *covet* the silver and gold on them, and do not take it for yourselves, or you will be ensnared by it, for it is detestable to the LORD your God.

**Josh 7:21** When I [Achan] saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I *coveted* them and took them. They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath."

**Prov 23:4** Do not wear yourself out to get rich; have the wisdom to show restraint.

**Prov 27:20** Death and Destruction are never satisfied, and neither are the eyes of man.

**Eccl 5:10** Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless.

**Eccl 5:12** The sleep of a laborer is sweet, whether he eats little or much, but the abundance of a rich man permits him no sleep.

**Micah 2:2** They *covet* fields and seize them, and houses, and take them. They defraud a man of his home, a fellowman of his inheritance.

**Matt 6:21** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

**Acts 20:33** I have not *coveted* anyone's silver or gold or clothing.

**Rom 7:7,8** What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what *coveting* really was if the law had not said, "Do not *covet*." <sup>8</sup>But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of *covetous* desire. For apart from law, sin is dead.

**Rom 13:9** The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not *covet*," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

**James 4:2** You want something but don't get it. You kill and *covet*, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God.

#### Thankfulness

**2 Cor 9:8** And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

**Col 3:15** Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

**Col 4:2** Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

**Heb 12:28** Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,

**2 Pet 1:3** His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

#### Contentment

**Prov 5:18-20** May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. <sup>19</sup>A loving doe, a graceful deer-- may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love. <sup>20</sup>Why be captivated, my son, by an adulteress? Why embrace the bosom of another man's wife?

**Prov 13:25** The righteous eat to their hearts' *content*, but the stomach of the wicked goes hungry.

**Prov 19:23** The fear of the LORD leads to life: Then one rests *content*, untouched by trouble.

**Eccl 4:8** There was a man all alone; he had neither son nor brother. There was no end to his toil, yet his eyes were not *content* with his wealth. "For whom am I toiling," he asked, "and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?" This too is meaningless-- a miserable business!

**Song 8:10** I am a wall, and my breasts are like towers. Thus I have become in his eyes like one bringing *contentment*.

**Dan 4:4** I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at home in my palace, *contented* and prosperous.

**Luke 3:14** Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?" He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely-- be *content* with your pay."

**Phil 4:11,12** I am not saying this because I am

in need, for I have learned to be *content* whatever the circumstances. <sup>12</sup> 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.

**1 Tim 6:6-8** But godliness with *contentment* is great gain. <sup>7</sup>For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. <sup>8</sup>But if we have food and clothing, we will be *content* with that.

**Heb 13:5** Keep your lives free from the love of money and be *content* with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

#### Quotes:

My first reaction was that I wanted more money. I thought, 'Damn!' It was the smallest amount they were giving away.

*Jim Adams, Marshalltown, IA  
Winner of \$67,000 lottery*

A contented person is one who has all the things his neighbor has.

*Anonymous*

Just imagine how happy you'd be if you lost everything you have right now, and then got it back again.

*Anonymous*

He is a wise man who does not grieve for the things which he has not, but rejoices for those which he has.

*Epictetus*

I am always content with what happens, for what God chooses is better than what I choose.

*Epictetus*

Contentment is realizing that God has already given me everything I need for my present happiness.

*Bill Gothard*

Contentment is understanding that if I am not satisfied with what I have, I will never be satisfied with what I want.

*Bill Gothard*

When life isn't the way you like, like it the way it is.

*Jewish Proverb*

He is rich who is content with the least.

*Socrates*