

For Richer or For Poorer

Contentment

One of the leading catalyst for divorce is finances. Financial support (security) is a #4 on the list of basic needs for a woman. It is therefore important for each of you to become acquainted with each others saving and spending habits.

1 Timothy 6:6-12 gives us scriptural wisdom concerning finances.

1Ti 6:6 Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth.

1Ti 6:7 After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can't take anything with us when we leave it.

1Ti 6:8 So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content.

1Ti 6:9 But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction.

1Ti 6:10 For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

1Ti 6:11 But you, Timothy, are a man of God; so run from all these evil things. Pursue righteousness and a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness.

1Ti 6:12 Fight the good fight for the true faith. Hold tightly to the eternal life to which God has called you, which you have confessed so well before many witnesses.

The key question we need to ask ourselves, "Are we content where the Lord has us financially?"

A good definition of contentment is: Contentment is not having all you want, it is wanting only what you have.

True contentment can be found in Jesus Christ, therefore contentment is not based on your circumstances, which includes your financial situation.

True fulfillment in life only comes from a personal abiding relationship with Jesus Christ. He, himself is all we need.

Phl 4:11 Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have.

[Phl 4:12](#) I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little.

[Phl 4:13](#) For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.

Wealth and financial goals in and of themselves are not wrong. When financial success or the appearance of financial success are more important to you than Jesus, you will not have contentment, and your marriage will unravel.

[Luk 12:15](#) Then he said, "Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own."

[1Pe 2:11](#) Dear friends, I warn you as "temporary residents and foreigners" to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls.

[1Pe 2:12](#) Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world.

1. What does it mean to be content?

2. Why is godliness with contentment great gain?

Beware of Prosperity Teachers

There is heretical and destructive teaching that claims God wants every believer to be wealthy. These false teachers claim that if you are not wealthy, it is because you lack faith, and you are not in the will of God for your life.

Peter teaches us:

[2Pe 1:3](#) By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.

[2Pe 1:4](#) And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.

Prosperity teaching is totally contrary to the Bible.

The apostle Paul said :[1Ti 6:10](#) *For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.*

It is not a sin to be wealthy, it is a sin to have a desire for wealth that is a greater desire than you have for Jesus.

Take Inventory

The bible says: [1Cr 11:31](#) *But if we would examine ourselves, we would not be judged by God in this way.*

We need to regularly examine our hearts in the light of the Word of God. One of the fruits of the Holy Spirit is self-control because we are always submitted to the Lordship of Jesus in our live by the power of the Holy Spirit. Therefore the Holy Spirit will give us the ability to say no and leave the credit card in the wallet, to walk away from the great deals, and big savings. Commercial and ads are always trying to convince us that we have needs that are not really needs. The apostle Paul said to Timothy: *1Ti 6:11 But you, Timothy, are a man of God; so run from all these evil things. Pursue righteousness and a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness.*

The Parable of the Rich Fool

Jesus addressed the subject of contentment in Luke 12.

Luk 12:15 Then he said, "Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own."

Luk 12:16 Then he told them a story: "A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops.

Luk 12:17 He said to himself, 'What should I do? I don't have room for all my crops.'

Luk 12:18 Then he said, 'I know! I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods.

Luk 12:19 And I'll sit back and say to myself, "My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!"

Luk 12:20 "But God said to him, 'You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?'

Luk 12:21 "Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God."

The man had is priorities in the wrong place. We were not created to build our own little empires. We were created to please God, and to bring others into a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. The devil and the world are always working to draw our heart away from Jesus and towards things of this world. We must guard our hearts or we will do foolish things, especially when it comes to

spending. If we think, if only I had this thing, then I will be content, happy, satisfied, we will willingly and foolishly go into debt for a lie. Only Jesus can give a heart rest.

Live a Simple Life

It has been well said, you never see a hearse towing a u-haul, because we can't take any of it to heaven. It is very important to learn how to live a simple life. When we live simple lives, we can be content with what we have, and when a need or desire arise we are free in Jesus to pray about it and do as the Lord leads. The Bible says in Matt 6:8 "*your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.*" The Lord will direct and lead us in all of our purchases.

The enemy wants to do whatever he can to distract us from Jesus. We need to remind ourselves that we are pilgrims and sojourners on the earth, and we don't want to become too comfortable in this world.

There is only one life, and it will soon be passed.

Only what we do for Christ will last.

There is no material thing that will bring us true, long lasting contentment, satisfaction, and fulfillment. The enemy will constantly try to sell us a bill of goods.

2Pe 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment.

2Pe 3:11 Since everything around us is going to be destroyed like this, what holy and godly lives you should live,

2Pe 3:12 looking forward to the day of God and hurrying it along. On that day, he will set the heavens on fire, and the elements will melt away in the flames.

One way to put it all back into perspective is to remember it is all going to burn.

We need to take these questions to heart before the Lord.

1. Where is our treasure?
2. Are we caught up with the cares of life?
3. Are we spending all of our time pursuing material things that are going to melt away?
4. Do we both share the same financial goals?

The bible promise that God will supply all our needs. Therefore pursue righteousness, learn to live a simple content life, and use what you do have to further the Kingdom of Jesus.

3. We know finances can cause great conflict in marriage. Do you both share the same financial goals? If so what are they?

4. Jesus said where your treasure is there will you heart be also. Make a list of the things you have been pursuing.
a.
b.
c.
d.
e.

5. What doe is mean to be covetous?

6. Are you aware of any financial difficulties that your fiance or spouse is experiencing a this point in their life? (e.g., credit card debt, school loans, etc.)

7. List the principles you find in each Scripture passage.

a. Proverbs 11:24-25

b. Proverbs 11:28

c. Proverbs 12:11

d. Proverbs 13:18,22

e. Proverbs 15:16-17
f. Proverbs 16:8
g. Proverbs 20:4,13
h. Proverbs 23:4-5
i: Proverbs 28:6,22
j. Luke 12:13-21

k. Romans 13:6-7
l. Ephesians 4:28
m. Philippians 4:11-13, 19
n. 2 Thessalonians 3:7-13
o. 1 Timothy 6:6-12

p. 1 Timothy 6:17-19
q. Hebrews 13:5