

Contentment

"But godliness actually is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment" (1 Timothy 6:6). Contentment is about a willingness to be satisfied with what you have. It comes from knowing God's plan for your life, having the conviction to live it, and believing that God's peace is greater than the world's problems.

We get trapped into a discontented life by accepting the goals communicated by the advertising industry and by the people that we have contact with in everyday life. Their goals always boil down to more...bigger...better...best. Scripture defines these goals as indulgence, greed, and pride.

The average New Zealander is wealthy by world standards but we instead define wealth by what we see portrayed in the media. No matter how high our income, a wealthy person is someone who has more income than us.

Is the concept of conservation and moderation really a loser's attitude? Not according to biblical standards.

God's Plan for Contentment

Although the Bible teaches about the dangers of material riches, it does not however teach that poverty is the desired alternative. God wants us to understand that money is a tool to use in accomplishing His plans through us. To find true contentment, some basic guidelines must be established.

1. Establish a reasonable standard of living. Since there is no universal plan that is suitable for everyone, this must be a standard established between husband, wife, and God. Just having an abundance is not necessarily a sign of God's blessings.
2. Establish a habit of giving. Every family should be directly involved with the meeting needs of another family. There are many organisations that act as a funnel for such funds. If you can't be personally involved, this is the best alternative.
3. Establish priorities. We are often discontented, not because we aren't doing well but because others are doing better. Too often we let the urgent things take priority over the important things.
4. Develop a thankful attitude. Thankfulness is a state of mind, not an accumulation of assets. Until we can truly thank God for what we have and be willing to accept that it is God's provision for our lives, contentment never will be possible.
5. Reject a fearful spirit. We can get trapped into hoarding because we fear the "What ifs?" of retirement, disability, unemployment, or economic collapse. Obviously we should consider these things and even plan for them, but within reason.

In Conclusion

Finding contentment is the solution to reversing the growing debt levels in our society. Contentment does not mean complacency or living according to strict rules.

Contentment instead requires a personal relationship with God and finding His plan for our lives.

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