

FINDING AND ACCEPTING CONTENTMENT?

Philippians 4:11 ... “Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content.”

1 Timothy 6:6 ... “Now godliness with contentment is great gain.”

The pursuit of most people, is to find contentment. And, although some forms of contentment can be dangerous and risky, the pursuit of it does bring many people to God’s doorstep and results in their relationship with Jesus. The pursuit of contentment motivates many young people to complete their education and learn a trade or obtain a college degree. Contentment is on the minds of people who work hard, are honest, serve their communities, and treat others as they want to be treated.

When pursued morally, legally, responsibly, and in harmony with God’s instructions, we can achieve wonderful contentment that blesses us as well as others around us. But when contentment is pursued with misguided motives, it can produce sadness or even tragedy. Some people make the gym their headquarters for contentment. They might make their job, or their bank account, or their hobbies, or their friendships the core of their pursuit of contentment. And while a fit body, a nice income, fun recreational activities, and plenty of friends might give your sense of self-worth a boost, they might not deliver on lasting and robust contentment.

Some of the ways in which people pursue contentment can be disastrous. Trusting alcohol, drugs, sex, and other forms of inappropriate behavior to help you find contentment, is a serious mistake and might kill you. While some of these activities may give you momentary contentment – like just a few minutes – they result in terrible guilt and depression that lasts for a lifetime. The only true and lasting contentment to be found, is that offered by God. You might laugh and ask “Why would I want to trade my friends, my cigarettes or my booze for a boring life under God’s thumb?” But, having a committed relationship with Jesus is as far removed from living under God’s thumb as you can get. Living for and serving God is not about control, it is about freedom; freedom to enjoy God-blessed contentment, lasting joy, and a glorious future.

Therefore, although pursuing contentment through the right things is not necessarily bad, the best and healthiest contentment you can obtain, is that offered by Jesus. And, you do not have to pursue it. You merely have to accept it. He offers it to you freely. Just shut out all those other alternatives, and rest in Jesus. That is the best contentment possible.

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