Lifestyle of Contentment, A

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I. Introduction.


B. “For I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances…” This is the goal of contentment.

II. Contentment is the attitude that what I have is sufficient and God is sufficient for my situation.

A. The Greek word for contentment is the same word as “sufficiency.” (1Timothy 6:6; 2 Corinthians 9:8; 1Timothy 6:8; 2 Corinthians 12:9)

III. There are several areas of life that require us to learn contentment.

A. We must learn to be content with our possessions. (1 Timothy 6:6ff; Luke 12:15ff)

1. Covetousness dangerous because it’s a respectable sin in the church- i.e. not as bad as adultery.

2. Here are 3 tips for avoiding covetousness or love of possessions.

   a) Value your soul and what is good over your possessions. (Mark 8:36-37; Proverbs 8:10-11; Proverbs 20:15; Deuteronomy 6:6-7)

   b) Realize that everything that you have is from God. (Deuteronomy 8:17-18; 1 Chronicles 29:12-14)

   c) Accept that God gives some more than others. (Matthew 20:15; Psalm 21:1)

B. We must learn contentment with our position in the body of Christ or in society. (1 Corinthians 12:15ff)

C. We must learn contentment with God’s providence, which is contentment in the circumstances that God permits in our lives. (2 Corinthians 12:7ff)

1. We all have sources of frustration in our lives. Here are 3 biblical truths to help us learn contentment in our circumstances.

   a) God is in control of all of your circumstances. (2 Corinthians 12:7ff; Psalm 139:13-16; Exodus 4:11-12)

   b) God loves you and He wills your best. (Lamentations 3:33; Hebrews 12:5-11)

   c) God’s wisdom in determining what circumstances are best for you is infinite beyond our understanding. (Romans 11:33ff; book of Job; Acts 24:26ff)

IV. God’s grace is sufficient for us. (Philippians 4:11-13)
Application questions:

1. What possessions do you find distract you from contentment? What value do you see in them? Why do you think you place that kind of value on them?

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2. How can you practice gratitude toward God for your possessions and your circumstances every day?

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3. How have you seen God love you and be sufficient for you in difficult circumstances in the past?

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