

Contentment, Coveting

1. Godliness with contentment is great gain. 1 Tim. 6:6.

Now godliness with contentment is great gain.

2. Learn contentment, for love of money brings misery.

1 Tim. 6:7–10. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

3. Keep free from love of money and be content. Heb.

13:5. Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”[Deut. 31:6].

4. Paul learned contentment even in the most difficult circumstances of life. Phil. 4:11–13.

Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

5. Contentment promotes peace. Prov. 17:1. Better is a dry morsel with quietness, Than a house full of feasting with strife.

6. Life does not consist of what one possesses. Luke 12:15. And He said to them, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”

7. The parable of the rich fool teaches that life is more than material riches. Luke 12:16–21. (*The rich fool stored up things for himself but was not rich toward God, so his life was demanded of him.*)

8. Do not allow the deceitfulness of wealth to crowd out the word. Mark 4:1–20. (*the parable of the sower*) **Mark 4:7, 18–20.** “And some seed fell among thorns; and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no crop. Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.”

9. Put covetousness to death. Col. 3:5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication,

uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

10. Do not lay up earthly treasures, but heavenly treasures. Matt. 6:19–21. “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

11. You can't serve two masters at one time. Matt. 6:24. “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”

12. Seek first God's kingdom. Matt. 6:33. “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

13. Don't seek status, as the disciples did. Luke 9:46–48. Then a dispute arose among them as to which of them would be greatest. And Jesus, perceiving the thought of their heart, took a little child and set him by Him, and said to them, “Whoever receives this little child in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me. For he who is least among you all will be great.”

14. It's better to have a simple lifestyle than to have wealth with a lot of conflict in the home. Prov. 15:16–17. Better is a little with the fear of the Lord, Than great treasure with trouble. Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, Than a fatted calf with hatred.