

Be Wise Be Content

Proverbs 4:7 - *Wisdom is the most important thing; so get wisdom. If it costs everything you have, get understanding.*

Wise people are Content - satisfied or happy

Proverbs 27:20 NLT - *Just as Death and Destruction are never satisfied, so human desire is never satisfied.*

Billions of dollars are spent every year trying to convince you that you don't have what will truly satisfy you.

The enemy's plan is the same as it was from the beginning in the garden...to convince you that you need something else to be satisfied.

Culture pushes us to be discontent

1. GET MORE

- If some is good, more is better

2. WANT WHAT'S NEXT

- Next best thing...new phone, new computer, new TV.
- **Next seasons of life.** Kids want to be older, then when older, they want to be younger.

3. COMPARE

- You can't be happy if someone has something bigger, better, faster, nicer than you
- Have you ever noticed that you can have something really good and be completely happy about it...until you see what someone else has?

Proverbs 14:30 NLT - *A peaceful heart leads to a healthy body; jealousy is like cancer in the bones.*

Exodus 20:17 - *"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor **anything** that is your neighbor's."*

2 Corinthians 10:12 NKJV - *12 For we dare not class ourselves **or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves.** But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, **are not wise.***

Comparison can only lead you to feeling inferior or superior - And both are wrong.

Depression is at an all-time high. Anxiety is at an all time high. It's never been more easy to be less happy about who you are or what you have.

Comparison is a tool of the enemy to rob you of joy and contentment.

Ecclesiastes 4:6 NLT - *Better to have one handful with quietness than two handfuls with hard work and chasing the wind.*

Ecclesiastes 6:9 NLT - *Enjoy what you have rather than desiring what you don't have. Just dreaming about nice things is meaningless—like chasing the wind.*

It plays into the thought of “if only” - The if only mentality that drives discontent.

Philippians 4:11-13 - *Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. 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. 13 For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.*

IT ISN'T YOUR SITUATION THAT DETERMINES YOUR SATISFACTION.

Paul was writing from prison! - No matter what season I'm in...good or bad.

THE SECRET OF CONTENTMENT ISN'T IN WHAT WE HAVE BUT WHO WE HAVE.

Hebrews 13:5 - *“Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”*

Real contentment comes from the fact that He is with us and He is IN us.

1 Timothy 6:6-9 - *6 But godliness with contentment is great gain, 7 for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. 8 But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. 9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.*

CONTENTMENT COMES FROM THE INSIDE NOT FROM WHAT'S ON THE OUTSIDE

Luke 12:15 - *And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.*

Be careful..on guard...fight for...the idea that your life isn't satisfied by what you have in it.

3 ways to practice contentment.

1. REJOICE WITH OTHERS

- **Romans 12:15** - *Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.*
- *Intentionally make a point to thank God for other's blessings.*

2. REDEFINE YOUR DELIGHT

- We have to stop looking around and start looking up.
- **Psalm 37:4** - *Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.*

3. REMEMBER THE GOODNESS OF GOD

- **Psalm 13:6 NLT** - *I will sing to the Lord, because He is good to me.*
- **Psalm 103:2-5** - *2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, 3 who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, 4 who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, 5 who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*