

DOLLARS AND SENSE

Part 2 - "The Law of Contentment"

"It's healthy to be content, but envy will eat you up." Prov. 14:30 (CEV)

"It is better to be satisfied with what you have than to be always wanting something else." Eccl. 6:9 (GN)

THE EFFECT OF ALWAYS WANTING MORE

1. **Wanting more brings more fatigue**

"Do not wear yourself out to be rich; have the wisdom to show restraint." Prov. 23:4

2. **Wanting more brings more expenses**

"The more you have, the more people come to help you spend it. So what is the advantage of wealth—except perhaps to watch it run through your fingers!" Eccl. 5:11 (NLT)

3. **Wanting more brings more anxiety**

"A working man...can get a good night's sleep. But the rich man has so much that he stays awake worrying." Eccl. 5:12 (GN)

4. **Wanting more brings more conflict**

"A greedy man brings trouble to his family." Prov. 15:27

"People who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction." 1 Tim. 6:9 (NLT)

5. **Wanting more brings more dissatisfaction**

"If you love money, you will never be satisfied; if you long to be rich, you will never get all you want. It is useless." Eccl. 5:10 (GN)

"I have learned the secret of being content ... whether living in plenty or in want." Phil. 4:12

HOW TO LEARN CONTENTMENT

1. **Stop comparing myself to others.**

"We do not dare classify or compare ourselves...it is not wise." 2 Cor. 10:12

"You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor." Exodus 20:17

Covet - the uncontrolled desire to acquire

2. **Enjoy what I have**

"If God gives a man wealth and property...he should be grateful and enjoy what he has...it is a gift from God." Eccl. 5:19 (GN)

"Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment." 1 Tim. 6:17

3. **Remember life is not about things**

"Jesus said, 'Watch out and guard yourselves from every kind of greed; because your true life is not made up of the things you own, no matter how rich you may be.'" Luke 12:15 (GN)

"O God, I ask for two things from you before I die: First, help me never to tell a lie. Second, give me neither poverty nor riches! Give me just enough to satisfy my needs. For if I grow rich, I may deny you and say, 'Who is the Lord?' And if I am too poor, I may steal and thus insult God's holy name." Prov. 30:7-9

4. **Focus on what will last forever**

"We fix our attention, not on the things that are seen, but on things that are unseen. What can be seen lasts only for a time; but what cannot be seen lasts forever." 2 Cor. 4:18