



7 MARKS *of a* DISCIPLE

DEVELOPING A CONTENT HEART SELECTED SCRIPTURES

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Introduction: Benjamin Franklin once asked, “Who is he that is happiest? He who is content. And who is that? No one.” Although contentment with God’s provisions is often elusive, it is a mark of a true disciple of Jesus Christ.

I. The Problem With “More”

II. The Cure For More: Contentment

A. Contentment Defined

B. Contentment Illustrated

1. In the life of Jesus (Matthew 8:20; John 17:13)

Matthew 8:20 “And Jesus said to him, ‘The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.’”

John 17:13 “But now I come to Thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy made full in themselves.”



2. In the life of Paul (Philippians 4:4; 4:11)

Philippians 4:4 “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice!”

Philippians 4:11 “Not that I speak from want; for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.”

Matthew 11:28 “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.”

III. The Benefits Of A Content Heart

A. Enjoying Where We Are Rather Than Where We Want To Be
(John 17:13; Philippians 2:17)

John 17:13 “But now I come to Thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy made full in themselves.”

Philippians 2:17 “But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all.”

B. Appreciating Rather Than Resenting Others (James 4:1-4)

James 4:1-4 ¹ “What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? ² You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. And you are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures. ⁴ You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

James 4:2b “You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel.”



C. Enhancing Rather Than Diminishing God's Reputation
(Matthew 6:31-32)

Matthew 6:31-32 ³¹ "Do not be anxious then, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'With what shall we clothe ourselves?' ³² For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things."

John 17:4 "I glorified Thee on the earth having accomplished the work which Thou hast given Me to do."

IV. Developing A Content Heart

A. Regularly Express Gratitude To God (Luke 17:11-19)

B. Adopt A Life Purpose Bigger Than Yourself (Philippians 1:12-14)

Philippians 3:7-8 ⁷ "But whatever things were gain to me, those things I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ."

Philippians 1:12-14 ¹² "Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out of the greater progress of the gospel, ¹³ so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else, ¹⁴ and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear."

Conclusion