



"CHOOSING CONTENTMENT OVER COMPARISON"

PHILIPPIANS 4:11-13

DR. ROBERT JEFFRESS
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Introduction: Today we are going to look at one of the most elusive of all positive attitude choices: contentment. We will discover both the cause and the cure for dissatisfaction in life.

I. **The Primary Enemy Of Contentment: Comparison** (Exodus 20:17)

A. **Comparison Defined**

Definition of comparison: Comparison is an attitude of **dissatisfaction** with God's provisions for my life that leads to an **obsession** with having more.

James 1:17 "Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights."

Exodus 20:17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

Micah 2:1-2 ¹ "Woe to those who scheme iniquity, who work out evil on their beds! When morning comes, they do it, for it is in the power of their hands. ² They covet fields and then seize them, and houses, and take them away. They rob a man and his house, and a man and his inheritance."

B. **The Danger of Comparison Illustrated** (Isaiah 14:13-14)

Isaiah 14:13-14 ¹³ "But you [Satan] said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north. ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'"

Genesis 3:5 "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."



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II. Two Myths That Will Rob You Of Contentment

A. Myth #1: "I Can Have It All"

B. Myth #2: "I Could Be Happy If Only I Had ____"

1 Timothy 6:10 "For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang."

Psalms 115:4-8 ⁴ "Their idols are silver and gold, the work of man's hands. ⁵ They have mouths, but they cannot speak; they have eyes, but they cannot see; ⁶ they have ears, but they cannot hear; they have noses, but they cannot smell; ⁷ they have hands, but they cannot feel; they have feet, but they cannot walk; they cannot make a sound with their throat. ⁸ Those who make them will become like them, everyone who trusts in them."

III. Six Reasons Money Can Never Satisfy The Desire For More

A. No One Ever Has Enough Money (Ecclesiastes 5:10)

Ecclesiastes 5:10 "Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless." NIV

B. Money Attracts Parasites (Ecclesiastes 5:11)

Ecclesiastes 5:11 "As goods increase, so do those who consume them. And what benefit are they to the owner except to feast his eyes on them?" NIV

C. Money Produces Anxiety (Ecclesiastes 5:12)

Ecclesiastes 5:12 "The sleep of a laborer is sweet, whether he eats little or much, but the abundance of a rich man permits him no sleep." NIV

D. Money Can Be Harmful (Ecclesiastes 5:13)

Ecclesiastes 5:13 "I have seen a grievous evil under the sun: wealth hoarded to the harm of its owner." NIV



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E. Money Can Be Easily Lost (Ecclesiastes 5:14)

Ecclesiastes 5:14 "Or wealth lost through some misfortune..." NIV

Proverbs 23:4-5 ⁴ "Do not wear yourself out to get rich; have the wisdom to show restraint.
⁵ Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle." NIV

F. Money Is Only Temporal (Ecclesiastes 5:15)

Ecclesiastes 5:15 "Naked a man comes from his mother's womb, and as he comes, so he departs. He takes nothing from his labor that he can carry in his hand." NIV

IV. Paul's Three Secrets To Learning Contentment

Definition of contentment: Contentment means being at peace with the unchangeable **circumstances, choices**, and even **mistakes** that shape our destiny.

Philippians 4:11-13 ¹¹ "Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. ¹² I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. ¹³ I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

A. Compare Yourself to God's Standard of Success Rather Than Human Standard of Success (Philippians 3:7-8)

Definition of success: Success is **knowing** the will of God and **doing** it.

Philippians 3:7-8a ⁷ "But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ^{8a} More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord."



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B. Trust in God's Sovereign Plan in Your Life (Psalm 139:13-16)

Psalm 139:13-16 ¹³ "You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body, and then knit them together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! It is amazing to think about. Your workmanship is marvelous -- and how well I know it. ¹⁵ You were there while I was being formed in utter seclusion! ¹⁶ You saw me before I was born and scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe. Every day was recorded in your Book!" TLB

Job 34:19 "Who shows no partiality to princes nor regards the rich above the poor, for they are all the work of His hands."

1 Timothy 6:17 "Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy."

C. Manage Your Expectations (1 Timothy 6:7-8)

1 Timothy 6:7-8 ⁷ "For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. ⁸ And if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content."

Principles To Live By

1. God's plan for your life is **unique**; therefore, refuse to **compare** yourself with others.
2. God's purpose for your life is based on His **elective** will; therefore, trust in His **sovereignty**.
3. God's provisions for your life come from His **goodness**; therefore, be **grateful** for what He has already provided.

Conclusion