

The



Compass

September 6 - September 12, 2010

From the Inside Out
Contentment

Overview

Often when we have a defensive reaction to a topic or conversation, it's because the topic has touched a nerve. God, though, doesn't want us to shy away from biblical truth as it relates to our lives – even when the truth touches a nerve. His desire is for us to face those things head on within the context of a caring community in order to experience the inner transformation and contentment He has for each one of us.

I Timothy 6:3-10

If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions and constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain. But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. (NIV)

Memory Verse – I Timothy 6:6

But godliness with contentment is great gain. (NIV)

Biblical Context

Paul writes to his friend Timothy, sharing warnings and encouragements as Timothy leads the church at Ephesus. He warns Timothy of false teachers who are making the rounds and asks Timothy to be ready to confront them and warn his church of this danger. The primary false teaching is this: If they pursue godliness, they'll experience financial gain, and lack of financial gain is due to lack of maturity.

Our Context

Jason did the math, and it didn't make sense. Last year his family had made more money than any prior year. At the same time, they'd accumulated more debt, added less to savings, and given a smaller percentage to charitable organizations. Right now, Jason was more frustrated about finances than he had been in a long time, and he wasn't sure where to turn. Could this be the new normal?

Monday – September 6th

First Impressions

Read through your Compass from last week, and review the key Scripture (Joshua 4:1-9). What is one take away you had from last week's study? Share it with your Base Camp.

This week we look at I Timothy 6:3-10. Read the passage 2 or 3 times before continuing.

What commands do you see in this passage to be obeyed?

What promises are to be claimed? Are there any conditions to them?

Tuesday – September 7th

Focus: Paul warns to beware of false teachers who have a financial motive.

Read: I Timothy 6:3-5; Galatians 5:19-21; Titus 1:6-9. Reflect on these passages for a few minutes before answering the questions.

Discover:

1. What is common between the description of the false teachers in Timothy and the acts of the sinful nature in Galatians?
2. What is the contrast between the false teachers in Timothy and the qualifications of elders in Titus?

Apply: Set aside time today to pray for the Pastors and elders at your church. Ask God to help them remain true to the gospel of Christ.

Wednesday – September 8th

Focus: Contentment is a sign of Christian maturity.

Read: I Timothy 6:3; Philippians 4:11-12;
Hebrews 13:5

Discover:

1. Look up the definition of “content” in a dictionary. How does the definition shed light on today’s verses?
2. Reflect before answering. What is the primary reason we are not content?

Apply: Ask God to show you where you are not satisfied. Ask Him to help you understand your lack of satisfaction.

Thursday – September 9th

Focus: Learning the difference between needs and wants can help us define enough.

Read: 1 Timothy 6:7-8; Matthew 6:19-21, 25-34

Discover:

1. How do the verses today define enough? How different is this than your definition?
2. Why do we attempt to accumulate more and more in light of verse 7 in 1 Timothy?
3. What is at the root of always wanting more? How is this different from what today's verses teach?

Apply: Memorize the memory verse (1 Timothy 6:6). Ask the Holy Spirit to help you develop godliness with contentment in your heart.

Friday – September 10th

Focus: Our desire for more destroys our trust in God and can lead to destruction.

Read: I Timothy 6:9-10; Luke 12:16-21; Proverbs 30:8-9.

Apply: Before answering any questions today, reflect on your goals and desires. Make a list of them and then ask God if the list reflects His goals and desires for you. If they aren't in agreement, what do you need to change to bring them into alignment?

Discover:

1. What are some of the warnings regarding the pursuit of wealth from today's verses?
2. Which of these warnings strike a chord of concern for you? Why?

Saturday – September 11th

Focus: Discontent and seeking wealth are temptations Satan uses to destroy our lives.

Read: Read I Timothy 6:3-10 three times. Listen to God's word speak to your heart.

Apply: Set aside time as a family today to look at your checkbook. What does it say about your priorities and desires? Talk about what you want to change to bring your spending more in line with God's truth from this week. What is one thing you can do starting today to live a life of godliness with contentment?

Prepare your heart to meet with God this weekend at your church's worship service. Ask God to teach you how to be content and to trust Him.

Base Camp Suggestions

Eating together...

Share ways God has given you contentment.

Being a family...

Read I Timothy 6:3-10 with the kids present. Ask, “What does it mean to be content?” Then ask, “How does God help us be content?”

Applying together...

Stewardship can be a very difficult topic to discuss – even in a close knit community. Let’s address that issue together.

1. Why is stewardship such a sensitive area for most people?
2. What keeps us from being more transparent about our struggles in this area?
3. How does this passage challenge us given the culture in which we live?
4. How do you think God is challenging you?

Praying together...

Spend your time praying for open hearts, a safe environment to discuss this issue, and an attitude of grace toward each other.

For Families with a Child in Tiny Town (0 to Pre-K)

Verse: “But godliness with contentment is great gain.” (1 Timothy 6:6)

What little child doesn’t get wide eyed wondering what’s in the boxes at Christmas time? Why is a walk through the toy aisle so exciting and hard to leave? How quickly our kids learn, “one more, please?” or “five more minutes?” However, more isn’t always better.

Activity: Gather some coins and a small bank or put a slot in a small container. Be careful if you have younger children, but let the kids put in the coins. Let them shake it and hear the money. Talk about all good gifts coming from God. Pray, thanking God for the good gifts He gives and ask Him to help us to be happy with what we have. Practice and discuss the verse.

If your child learned the verse and completed this or another of our family activities, return this page to the check-in station.

Parent Signature

Date

For Families with a Child In Adventure Quest (K - 4th grade)

Read I Timothy 6:3-10 and focus on I Timothy 6:6: “But godliness with contentment is great gain.” Ask your child what contentment means. (Read Matthew 6:33 with your child.) We need to put God first and be content with what He is doing in our lives.

Help your child make a list of their wants and what they think they need. Show them how God provides for their needs. Discuss their wants in light of God’s desires for our heart transformation.

Dads, take a walk with your children and talk about wants and needs. Are we centering our desires on Him? Are we content with what God is doing right now in our lives?

If your child learned the verse and completed this activity, please return this page to the check-in station with your signature.

Parent Signature

Date

For Families with a Child In Elevate (5th - 6th grade)

Read together I Timothy 6:3-10. In this passage Paul tells Timothy to stay away from those who just want to make money and from those who just want to argue. Ask your child how is I Timothy 6:6 a key to their spiritual growth and to their future joy and fulfillment in life?

Look at verse 10 again. Ask your child to describe a greedy person to you and to list a few ways how an unhealthy love of money can become the root of all kinds of evil.

Dads, take your kids out for ice cream. On the way home, ask if greed has ever caused them to have a problem with a friend or sibling. Share with them any of your experiences.

If your child learned the verse and completed this activity, please return this page to the check-in station.

Parent Signature

Date

Questions for Students (7th - 12th grade)

We are often taught and shown by the world what we gain determines how successful we will be. Even as young people you can easily fall into the trap of the more you have the more important you are.

1. Read Luke 12:22-34. How is what Jesus is describing as a way of life different from the way most of our world lives?
2. What are the things in this world that compete with the things of God? What are your specific struggles?
3. What are the riches we should pursue? What does God say about how He will provide? How can worry get in the way of what God desires to show us?
4. "Where your treasure is, your heart will be also." What does this statement mean to you? What are your first thoughts? What are your treasures? What do you want your treasures to be? Pray for one another for God to direct our hearts towards His treasures.

Sermon and Connection Class Notes

Mission and Vision

Our mission at Tri-Lakes Chapel is to help people connect: intimately with God, intentionally with God's family, and influentially with God's world. Our vision is to develop genuine Biblical community on every street in the Tri-Lakes region.

To this end, we have designed this Compass with a holistic, communal approach to spiritual growth that we believe will grow us together to be more like Jesus. This approach has four elements which work in an integrated fashion.

They are:

Household - Using this resource daily, both personally and communally, as our road map to integrated, spiritual growth.

Base Camp - Small groups meeting in homes to live life together while applying the message of the week.

Connection Class - Mid-size Sunday groups digging deeper together through detailed teaching and discussion.

Worship Service - Coming together corporately to focus on and respond to the heart of the week's passage.

We believe this integrated approach will bring dynamic growth in and through our Tri-Lakes family. Our hope is to experience communal, spiritual transformation as we - together-engage at all four levels.