



Life Group Questions

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Date: Week of January 16, 2022

Scripture: *Pursue Eternal Gain Through Contentment*
1 Timothy 6:6-19

1. **Ice Breaker:** Think of time when you were young when childish greed ended up hurting you or getting into trouble?
2. In Sunday's message, Jeff and Dave offered the following definition of Contentment: *"The learned condition of the heart whereby believers are able to find joy and satisfaction in whatever condition they find themselves."*
 - What do you think about this theological definition?
 - Is Contentment limited to money?
 - Describe a time or times when you have been discontent. How did it affect you?
3. On Sunday, Dave pointed out that food and clothing/shelter are a consistent New Testament theme for believers. Look at the following passages and note how Food & Shelter/Clothing play a role in what they teach: Matthew 6:25-34; Luke 12:13-30; Philippians 4:10-13; 1 Timothy 6:8.
4. Have you ever known someone who shockingly ended up a swindler? Generally, did it start big or small? What if any safeguards do you have to protect you from the slippery slope of greed?



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5. 1 Timothy 6:11 commands believers to flee and/by pursuing godliness.

- How does this fit the “replacement principle” described in Ephesians 4:22-32 (Taught in verses 22-24, illustrated throughout the rest of the chapter)?
- How are you replacing greed or other sins in your life?

6. Ultimately, Paul asks us to pursue Christ as the ultimate replacement for sin in our lives. How does that work in your life?

7. In 1 Timothy 6:17, Paul directs his commands about how to be generous with our time and possessions to “the rich in the present age.”

- Do you think of yourself as the “rich” Paul is talking to?
- Why or why not?

Consider the following:

“We don’t think of ourselves as rich because we tend to compare to others, when in fact we are all rich, both historically and relative to others in the world. We live in the most affluent society, the most affluent culture, in the history of the world.”

“We are rich by the world’s standards. Our homes have indoor plumbing, electricity, heat and furniture. We own many convenient appliances. Most of us own at least one automobile. We all have several changes of clothes. We enjoy clean drinking water and have access to the world’s best medical care. We are rich.”

[https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-25-how-be-good-and-rich-1-timothy-617-21.](https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-25-how-be-good-and-rich-1-timothy-617-21)



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8. In 1 Timothy 6:17, Paul states not to “set [our] hopes on the uncertainty of riches.” Read Matthew 6:19-20; Luke 12:13-21.

- How do these teachings of Jesus reinforce this point?

9. In 1 Timothy 6:18, Paul gives the rich three specific instructions on how to handle their wealth. Review what they are.

- Read 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 and 2 Corinthians 8:6-7.
- Here Paul gives additional guidance to the Corinthian church on how they should approach their giving. What other principles of God pleasing giving does Paul set forth here?
- Which of these are areas of faithful obedience for you and which are areas where God may be challenging you to step out and trust Him more fully?

10. In 1 Timothy 6:6, Paul challenges us to “take hold of the eternal life to which you were called” and then in verse 19 to “take hold of that which is truly life.”

- Read Mark 10: 17-27 and Matthew 6:24.
- Why was it so hard for the rich young man to “take hold of the eternal life” that Jesus was calling him to?
- Why are material wealth and possessions for many such a stumbling block to faith?
- How does contentment in Christ help to stay free of these temptations?



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11. Read 2 Corinthians 9:8-10. Summarize in your own words what Paul is telling us about contentment and generosity, particularly in verse 8.

- Do you really believe these promises/statements?
- If so, how should they affect how you steward your money and possessions?
- Have you seen this “fountain of abundant generosity” play out in your own life? If so, share how.

12. At the end of the sermon, we were each challenged to take some next step towards living more with an open hand with our time, talents, and treasures.

- If comfortable, share any next steps you have sensed God urging to take or changes you have decided to take.

Please finish by praying for the needs of your group, including each next step towards fuller contentedness in Christ and the “life that is truly life” that was shared in your group.