

Discontentment

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I. Introduction.

A. We struggle with discontentment.

B. Discontentment is a preoccupation with changing people or circumstances.

II. There are grave consequences to living with discontentment in one's life.

A. Discontentment erodes relationships.

1. One cannot love if he is always discontent, he can only manipulate.

2. One cannot lead people through discontentment because people only get in the way.

3. One cannot be preoccupied with changing people and loving them at the same time.

B. Discontentment clouds decision-making. One must monitor his discontentment level so he does not make wrong decisions.

C. Discontentment distorts one's view of God.

1. Discontentment makes God an instant bank machine.

2. Discontent people try to control and manipulate God.

III. Paul from prison said that he had learned to be content no matter the circumstance. (Philippians 4:12)

A. There is not necessarily a relationship between a person's contentment and his circumstances.

B. One must learn to detach his contentment from his circumstances.

C. We can go through any circumstance without losing our joy because of Christ within.

D. Paul's secret.

1. Contentment is primarily an internal thing.

a. When one becomes frustrated, he must realize that he does not have to let this happen.

b. If joy and peace are the fruit of a good marriage, then if one is walking in the Spirit he should have peace and joy.

c. Joy and peace are not the fruit of circumstance.

2. Contentment is need oriented and not want oriented.

- a. God never promised to meet all our wants.
- b. We should not become preoccupied with what we desire.

3. Contentment is a matter of trust.

- a. One must trust God to meet all of his needs.
- b. We are not to worry but to seek first God's kingdom.
- c. God has not left us in charge of changing anything or anybody. We are not to become so preoccupied with changing people that we do not trust.
- d. God will provide for our needs.

Application questions:

1. Why is discontentment so dangerous?

2. Which of Paul's "secrets" stand out to you the most? What strikes you?

3. What things in your life have you treated as needs that are really wants? How has this message challenged in this area?
