

Money Matters
#1: How To Learn To Be Content

Philippians 4:11 *I don't say this out of need, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.*

1. Establish a reasonable _____

1 Timothy 6:7 *...if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.*

- a) Do I _____?
- b) Would I _____ this?
- c) Will this compromise my _____?

2. Develop a _____

Ecclesiastes 5:19 *If God gives a man wealth and property he should be grateful and enjoy what he has. It is a gift from God.*

a) Remember _____

1 Thessalonians 5:18 *In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you*

- b) Develop a _____
- c) _____

3. Pursue the _____

a) Remember there's _____ in this world

Philippians 3:7-8 *...now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ*

b) Keep God _____

Colossians 3:1,2 *Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.*

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Hebrews 13:5 *Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."*

ebrews 13:5-6 The Message (MSG)

⁵⁻⁶ Don't be obsessed with getting more material things. Be relaxed with what you have. Since God assured us, "I'll never let you down, never walk off and leave you," we can boldly quote, God is there, ready to help; I'm fearless no matter what. Who or what can get to me?

"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. . . . [For] your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you." (Luke 12:22, 30-31)

"I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, *I have learned the secret* of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:11-13)

Psalms 62:10 *though your riches increase, do not set your heart on them.*

Luke 12:15 says, "A man's life does not consist of the abundance of things he has."

Luke 12:15 *"Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."*

Ecclesiastes 4:8

There was a man all alone; he had neither son nor brother. There was no end to his toil, yet his eyes were not **content** with his wealth. "For

whom am I toiling," he asked, "and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?" This too is meaningless- a miserable business!

I Timothy 6:6-8 *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.*

James 4:1-2 *What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight.*

Luke 8:14

"...but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures..."

Matthew 6:24

"No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

Proverbs 6:6-8

"Go to the ant, O sluggard, observe her ways and be wise, which, having no chief, officer or ruler, prepares her food in the summer and gathers her provision in the harvest."

Proverbs 22:7

"The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender."

Signs of Greed In Our Hearts

Greedy people talk a lot and worry a lot about money
Greedy people are not cheerful givers
Greedy people are reluctant to share
Greedy people quibble over insignificant sums of money
Greedy people talk as if they have just enough to get by
Greedy people won't let you forget what they've done for you
Greedy people are reluctant to express gratitude
Greedy people aren't content with what they have
Greedy people attempt to control people with their money
How do you react when you can't get something you want?

Here are things to ask yourself when evaluating a purchase:

1. *Is this a tool that will serve our family well?* Will it serve us better than what we already have? Maybe the new couch has a hide-a-bed, and your guests can use it. Maybe it doesn't smell like dog or Great Aunt Myrna's Pall Malls. Fine and excellent. No-Aunt-Myrna stink is a dang good reason.
2. *Can we actually afford it?* I know, huge bummer. But the fact remains that contentment is shot to hades when the credit card bill shows up and you don't have the money to pay for it. Do yourself and favor and wait until you have the money for it. Or go on a long and serious hunt for a version that you *can* afford. I've dedicated serious portions of my life to searching for a high-quality, inexpensive couch/house/rug/bed. It's fun! It almost makes me understand those weirdos who sit in the woods for all of November waiting for a deer to shoot. Except I'm warm and darting in and out of resale furniture shops, not sitting in a tree stand with a weapon.



I found this chair at an estate sale for \$150. Best purchase ever.

3. *Have I waited a reasonable amount of time before replacing the old thing?* If you've been living with the inadequate or hideous item for long enough, you'll know. This isn't a hard and fast rule you can memorize, but more a level of maturity you will know by instinct. If you've been a grown up for a long time while you suffered, then good enough.
4. *Is it really, exceptionally beautiful? Will it make us very happy?* Happiness doesn't always follow the rules of common sense. Right now I have a painting of two old, pudgy ladies in their old-fashioned bathing suits, and they're tiptoeing into the ocean together. There's no practical use for that art piece (I use the term loosely). It just makes me really happy, okay? I found it at the resale shop for \$20 and love it every time I see it. If a purchase makes you feel the same way, then that's a pretty good reason. Do we really want to go through life being practical and beige and safe? No! Sometimes we want to see fat old ladies going for a swim.