

CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

3. Contentment



Introduction

One of the qualities the Bible speaks about is contentment. Did you include this in the list of qualities you made? Perhaps not, but the Bible says, 'Godliness with contentment is great gain'. We live at a time when there is so much discontent. Everyone wants more and more. As God's children we are to have a different spirit; we are to be content.

Scripture Reading: 1 Timothy 6:6-16

- ◆ How would you describe a person who is content? What does it mean to be content?

(To be content means to be satisfied with your situation in life and with what you have. When a person is content he is not jealous of others and is not always wanting more. He is at peace, knowing that God will care for him.)

- ◆ People who always want more can easily fall into temptation. What are these dangers according to 1 Timothy 6:9, 10

(The love of money can become a trap that leads some people away from their faith in Christ. It grows like a root in our hearts and begins to affect and control every part of our lives, eventually bringing us to ruin.)

- ◆ There are many things that influence our lives and can make us feel dissatisfied. This is a temptation many of us face. What are the things that influence us ... what are the things that influence you? Discuss.

(For some, it may be what their friends and neighbours have, or what they see in the shops or on television and the internet.)

- ◆ In 1 Timothy 6:11 Paul tells his spiritual son to 'flee from all this'. As a son of God, how can you flee from the things that could draw you away from Jesus Christ?

- ◆ We are to 'flee from all this' and to 'pursue righteousness'. In this world it seems more worthwhile to pursue money and possessions, but God's Word says to pursue righteousness. Is it really worthwhile? Why do you think it is? Discuss.

Conclusion

There will always be people in the world who are wealthy and others who have very little. However, whether we have plenty or have little of this world's goods, we are to have an attitude of contentment. This does not mean we don't work hard! It means that above all our goal is to live righteously and become more like the Lord Jesus. When we do, we will have inner peace and contentment and the Bible says that this leads to eternal life.