

Contentment vs Coveting and Envy

Hebrews 13.5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." 6 So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

* **The contrast** between us and the world is not to be in whether we are _____ or _____, but in whether we are characterized by _____ or _____ and _____.

* **What lies** beneath all three—contentment, coveting, and envy?

* **Biblical** contentment is a byproduct of being fixed, centered, and stayed on _____, because he and his glory is your chief _____ in life. Covetousness and envy are byproducts of not having _____ as your chief desire, which usually means you are your own _____, and serving yourself is your _____. So the whole ballgame here is _____ and _____.

* **The Hebrew** and Greek words used of desire or zeal toward God are also used of _____ and _____.

Zech 8.2 ... "I am zealous (*qana'*) for Zion with great zeal; with great fervor I am zealous for her."

Gen 37.11 And [Joseph's] brothers envied (*qana'*) him ... 19 Then they said ..., 20 "Come therefore, let us now kill him ..."

* **Desire** or passion by itself doesn't tell you if it's _____ or _____. That is determined by the _____ or _____ of the desire, and what kind of _____ the heart is burning to create that fire within.

John 2.17 ... "Zeal (*zelos*) for Your house will consume me."

James 3.16 For where envy (*zelos*) and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

James 4.2 ... You ... covet (*zelos*) and cannot obtain. You fight and war ...

* Contentment is not a matter of having no _____; it's a matter of having _____ as your chief desire.

Rev 3.15 "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. 17 Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked ... 19 ... Therefore be zealous (*zelos*) and repent.

Psalm 73.23 ... You hold me by my right hand. 24 You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward receive me to glory. 25 Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You.

* The idea in Buddhist spirituality, or in stoic philosophy, that you should be _____ and avoid _____ is not Christian spirituality, nor is it Christian contentment.

Col 2.20 ... [W]hy ... do you subject yourselves to regulations—21 "Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle," 22 which all concern things which perish with the using—according to the commandments and doctrines of men? 23 These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.

Col 2.9 For in him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, 10 and in him you have been made complete, and he is the head over all rule and authority; ... 12 ... you were also raised up with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead ... 19 [and therefore we should hold] fast to the head, from whom the entire body ... grows with a growth which is from God.

* **If you** try to be stoically content, you will _____.

And you will tend to go in one of two ways ...

Rom 12.21 "Do not be overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good."

* **The problem** with coveting and envy is not that the person is _____ within; it's that they are stirred and fired within with a wrong _____, and with a wrong _____.

* **Whenever** our ultimate focus and desire shifts away from the one true God and Jesus Christ whom he has sent, something else will replace them, and 99 times out of a hundred, it's

going to be _____.

And when that happens, we will inevitably begin to gauge ourselves in comparison to _____.

And we will come to be characterized by three things:

_____, _____, and _____.

* **Pride** in the Bible means _____.

It may be manifested in _____ or in _____.

* **Coveting** and envy result when we feel someone else is

_____ to us, and so we _____

them, and we want to _____ the playing field.

The resentment we feel toward them is _____.

The desire for whatever we think is giving them the advantage is _____.

* **How do** we see envy and coveting in the case of the two women who claim the same baby? (*1Kings 3.16-28*)

* **Nothing** is as destructive to ourselves and our relationships as the evil trio of _____, _____, and _____.

Exo 20.17 "You shall not covet ... anything that is your neighbor's."

Mat 27.18 [Pilate] knew that they had handed Him over because of envy.

1Cor 13.4 "... love does not envy; ... does not parade itself, is not puffed up."

James 3.16 "Where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there."

James 4.1 What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures (i.e., desires) that wage war in your members? 2 You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend in on your pleasures.

Gen 50.19 [Joseph to his brothers:] "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? 20 As for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to ... save many people alive. 21 Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones."