

Contented or Discontented?

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. Hebrews 13:5

Do you ever go “window shopping”? Even when you don’t need anything? Have you ever returned without any packages? When most people window shop they find themselves thinking, “I could use that”, “That would be fun”, “I would enjoy that”, “That would make me look good”, or “People would know I’m special if I had that”. We might even look at friends or neighbors and sometimes think “I wonder what they have that I don’t have,” we might even be tempted to look at all the world in the same way.

If you window shop in the world you will find many things that seem very appealing and you will find things or experiences that you desperately want to try. Just one little peek, puff, taste, sniff or feel is all you might want. Many look at the world’s things as quite disgusting, until they get just a small taste of what they are curious about and then they no longer describe it as disgusting. Are you sure that you can stop if you take just one sip of alcohol? God’s Word tells us that our flesh is weak and we are fooling ourselves to think we are strong enough. *“Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.” Mark 14:38*

Are you sure you can look at pornography and not have it affect you? Are you sure that it won’t lead you down a path to eventually do the things you are looking at?

“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.” Proverbs 23:7

“Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body.” 1 Corinthians 6:13

Job understood temptation and said, *“I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?” Job 31:1* We would be wise to make the same covenant with God about our eyes, with the abundance of temptations in magazines, TV, news, newsstands, books, video games, check-out counters and much more; our eyes can lead us into bondage.

Are you sure that you won’t continue smoking if you just take one little puff? Are you sure that you won’t continue watching Hollywood movies or situation comedy that promote things contrary to God’s Word, once you have tasted it? Are you sure you could stop listening to rock music anytime you wanted to? Have you deceived yourself into thinking that you know your own flesh?

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” Jeremiah 17:9

No matter your ages, as old as you get or as young as you are, the flesh will always remain like a willful, two-year-old child and if you give an inch, it will take a mile.

Window shopping the world is dangerous because it lets the flesh taste or sample the world through the eyes. Dinah, Jacob’s daughter, made her mistake by simply *going “out to see the daughters of the land” Genesis 34:1* An innocent little visit to these interesting girls Dinah watched from the door of her tent; turned out completely different than she had planned. *“And when Shechem the son of*

Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her, and lay with her, and defiled her.”
Genesis 34:2 Dinah’s window shopping took an unexpected turn! What enters the eyes will excite the mind, which causes the body to desire what has been seen, and it can be downhill from there.

This is why it is important to guard our eyes and to control our thoughts. *“I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.”* Psalm 101:3

“Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.” 2 Corinthians 10:5

Window shopping for the things of this world will always lead to discontentment with the things the Lord has provided. Window shopping can lead you to do things you never dreamed you would do. The people of Israel window shopped in their minds and were then willing to go back into bondage and slavery in Egypt. *“We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick.”* Numbers 11:5 There is nothing wrong with cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic, but to think and to talk in this way is wrong when God has provided these things.

We should take a lesson from Paul on how to be contented.

“Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.” Philippians 4:11-12

The flesh is always on the lookout for things or experiences it craves that God has not provided at the present time. The flesh can become addicted to anything, so it is best to be contented and avoid window shopping.

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“Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; consider your ways.” Haggai 1:5

As well as following the will of the Lord for your life, life is also a process of putting off one thing and putting on another.

As we learn what needs to be put off, we must then consider what should take its place, or what should be put on.

“That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.” Ephesians 4:22-24

It is a continuous process to learn more about the Lord and to have a desire to be more like Him and less like ourselves and the world around us.

“And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:” Colossians 3:10

“Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.” Colossians 3:12-14

“And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.” 2 Peter 1:5-7

What needs to be put off?

“But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;” Colossians 3:8-9

Our lifelong goal should be to have the mind of Christ; to think, act, talk and obey as He would. *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:” Philippians 2:5*

What do we need to do for the old man’s mind and thoughts to be transformed?

“A I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. Romans 12:1-3”

Heavenly Father, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, set a watch before our eye, keep the door of our lips. Father I pray that you keep our hearts as well, because it is a wellspring of life and rivers of living water are to flow from it; help us not to pollute it. Teach us, train us and change us into the image of your Son, in thought, in word, in action; in all. Amen.