

LEARNING CONTENTMENT: SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

Introduction: Good: _____ to acquire

Bad: _____ to acquire

Ecclesiastes 4: 6 (NCV) "It is better to be content with what you have. Otherwise you will always be struggling for more and that is like chasing the wind."

FOUR NEGATIVE PROBLEMS WITH COVETING

1. ALWAYS WANTING MORE CAUSES _____.

Proverbs 23:4 (NCV) "Don't wear yourself out to get rich. Have the wisdom to show restraint."

- About the time I catch up with the Jones' they _____.

2. ALWAYS WANTING MORE CAUSES _____.

Ecclesiastes 5: 11 (LB) "The more you have, the more you spend."

- A Milton Bradley Game: "Mall _____".
- The problem....
 - is not that we don't make enough
 - is that we WANT too much.

3. ALWAYS WANTING MORE CAUSES _____.

James 4:1 (NCV) "Do you know where your fights and arguments come from? They come from the selfish desires that war within you."

- Coveting can be very _____ ("I wish I had...!")

4. ALWAYS WANTING MORE CAUSES _____.

Ecclesiastes 5:10 (TEV) "You will never be satisfied if you long to be rich. You will never get all you want."

- Things can cause happiness only _____.
- _____.
- The entire "tech" industry is programmed to create _____.

Proverbs 15:27 (NCV) "Greedy people bring trouble to their families."

- The secret to contentment: "It is _____."

Philippians 4:12 (NIV) "I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation."

THREE THINGS TO LEARN TO BE CONTENT THIS CHRISTMAS

1. BE **GRATEFUL**.

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

- The reason we are not grateful: _____ thinking trap.
- Happiness is enjoying what you _____.
- The key to a grateful heart: Don't _____.

II Corinthians 10:12 (TEV) "We do not dare to classify or to compare ourselves. It is not wise."

- Secret: Learn to _____ without having to _____!

2. Be _____!

I Timothy 6: 17-18 (LB) "Tell those who are rich not to be proud...and not to trust in their money which will soon be gone... . Tell them to use their money to do good, to give generously to those in need."

- Opposite of getting is _____.
- Pro is opposite of con! Then _____ is opposite of _____!

3. BE _____.

II Corinthians 4:18 (TEV) "We fix our attention not on things that are seen but on things that are unseen. What can be seen lasts only for a time but what cannot be seen lasts forever."

- The greatest "things" in life are not _____.

CONCLUSION: Don't confuse what you are living _____, with what you are living _____.

Psalms 17:15 (LB) "As for me, my contentment is not in wealth, but in seeing God and knowing all is well between us."

- Three steps to contentment
 1. Be _____.
 2. Be _____.
 3. Be _____.