

**STRONG FAMILIES: LEARNING TO BE CONTENT**

INTRODUCTION: THE Ninth/Tenth Commandments

Exodus 29:16 (NIV) "You shall not covet...anything that belongs to your neighbor."

- \_\_\_\_\_ desire to acquire!

Martin Luther: What does this mean? (9<sup>th</sup>) We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it. (10<sup>th</sup>) We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

**FOUR EFFECTS OF ALWAYS WANTING MORE**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 23:4 (NIV) "Do not wear yourself out to be rich; have the wisdom to show restraint."

- How much is enough? A little \_\_\_\_\_!

2. \_\_\_\_\_

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

- A lot of needs are \_\_\_\_\_.
- If the grass is greener, the water bill is \_\_\_\_\_.

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Ecclesiastes 5:12 (TEV) "A working man... can get a good night's sleep. But the rich man has so much that he stays awake worrying."

- Insomnia increases with \_\_\_\_\_.

4. \_\_\_\_\_

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

Ecclesiastes 5:10 (LB) "It's foolish to think wealth brings happiness."

- Things bring happiness only \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is the number one reason for dissatisfaction

Philippians 4:12 (NIV) [PAUL] "I have learned the secret of being content...whether living in plenty or in want."

- Contentment does not come \_\_\_\_\_.

## FOUR WAYS TO LEARN CONTENTMENT

### 1. \_\_\_\_\_ COMPARING MYSELF TO OTHERS

II Corinthians 10:12 (NIV) "We do not dare classify or compare ourselves... it is not wise."

- Learn to \_\_\_\_\_ without having to acquire.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is not equal to \_\_\_\_\_ worth.

### 2. REJOICE IN WHAT I DO HAVE

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."

- Avoid "When and \_\_\_\_\_" thinking.

Ecclesiastes 6:9 (TEV) "It is better to be satisfied with what you have than to be always wanting something else."

### 3. \_\_\_\_\_ WHAT I HAVE TO HELP OTHERS

I Timothy 6:17-19 (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 happily to those in need, always be storing up real treasure for themselves in heaven... it is the only safe investment for eternity."

- If you are living in \_\_\_\_\_, you are in the top 2 % of income of the world.
- Four precautions to avoid materialism:
  1. Don't be \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ in money.
  3. Use money to do \_\_\_\_\_.
  4. Give \_\_\_\_\_.

### 4. \_\_\_\_\_ ON WHAT IS GOING TO LAST

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

• \_\_\_\_\_ to live on... \_\_\_\_\_ to live for!

• My life style is determined

1. by \_\_\_\_\_ or by \_\_\_\_\_

2. by the \_\_\_\_\_ or by \_\_\_\_\_.