

# DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

*Our Mission: Reaching out to leaders who can change the world.*

August 2014

## LEADER DEVELOPMENT: CONTENTMENT

### INTRODUCTION

What has been your level of contentment when working for a Christian boss? A non-believer?

### OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read 1 Timothy 6:1-10

1. How might the principles of verses 1-2 apply to life in the Pentagon and the NCR?

*Note: Some theologians suggest that a modern social structure is a worker/boss relationship that replaces the slave/owner. Paul was worried that disrespect for the Gospel would lead to disrespect for the author. Eph 6:5-9; Col 3:22-4:1. Paul seems more concerned with responsibilities than rights.*

2. How does Paul describe false teachers?

*Note: Sound doctrine in verse 3 doesn't just refer to reading scripture, but refers to "abiding" in Jesus Christ, the ultimate source of doctrine that makes one spiritually healthy and vigorous.*

3. What motivated these teachers to pursue false doctrine? Vv. 4-5

4. How could someone think that godliness was a means to financial gain?

5. What brings us great gain? How would you describe it? v. 6

*Note: The word "contentment" (autarkeia) "was a great word in Stoicism, expressing the essence of the Stoic ideal, which was to be independent of external circumstances."<sup>153</sup> Paul Christianized the term, using it to refer to an attitude of mind independent of externals and dependent only on God. He was not advocating godless self-sufficiency as a source of contentment. Paul believed that true sufficiency is Christ-sufficiency<sup>1</sup>*

6. With what should we be content? Define contentment and describe what it looks like for you? What is the result of discontentment? Matt 6:25-34

7. What is the significance of verse 7, "For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it"? Job 1:21

8. According to Paul, what is wrong with money? Vv. 9-10; Matt 6:24

9. How can money be changed into heavenly treasure? Matt 6:19-24

10. What is the difference between obsession and contentment with regard to money/material things?

11. What is the relationship between money, contentment, and serving God?

### EVALUATION/APPLICATION

- About what situation in life will you ask God to help you be more content each day this week?

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<sup>153</sup> Hanson, *Pastoral Epistles*, 107. Dibelius and Conzelmann explain the Stoic understanding of "self-sufficiency" with a quotation from Stobaeus, "Self-sufficiency is nature's wealth," and a statement from Epictetus, "The art of living well ... is contingent upon self-control, self-sufficiency, orderliness, propriety, and thrift." See Dibelius, Conzelmann, *Pastoral Epistles*, 84.

<sup>1</sup> Lea, T. D., & Griffin, H. P. (1992). *1, 2 Timothy, Titus* (Vol. 34, pp. 167-168). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.