



THE LORD'S FLOCK

GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

Five Effects of Always Wanting More

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Reading: 1 Cor. 6:9-10

We all have impulse of wanting which is a very necessary part of our humanity. Without this particular form of energy, we will be inactive and unmotivated. However, it is also true that human nature desires more than it needs.

We are all tempted to not be satisfied. When John D. Rockefeller was asked how much wealth was enough, one of the richest and most powerful men in the world answered, "Just a little more."

Coveting is against the Ten Commandments in Ex. 10. The Bible lists the different vile passions and warns that unrepented covetousness will exclude a person from heaven (1 Cor. 6:9-10).

5 Effects of Always Wanting More

1. Fatigue

- We overwork ourselves just to keep up with the material rat race. As a result, everyone is tired and at many times, cranky.
- Do not wear yourself out to get rich (Prov. 23:4).

2. Debt

- It creates havoc with our budget.
- A lot of what we call need is really just greed. We need to distinguish between the two.
- We want what others have and it leads to dissatisfaction, overspending, and debts.

3. Worry

- The more you have, the more you have to worry about.
- The rich have so much that they lay awake, worrying (Ecc. 5:12).

4. Conflict

- Conflict comes when we want more than what is given to us.

- We argue with each other because we are full of selfish desires, covetousness, that fight to control our body (Jas. 4:1).

5. Dissatisfaction

- Things can bring happiness for a while, but the excitement soon wears out. Things do not keep us permanently happy for things do not change whereas human beings are constantly changing.

Four Ways to Conquer Covetousness

1. Resist Comparing Myself to Others

- Comparing always leads to coveting and dissatisfaction within us. We should not compare ourselves to others for we are all special and unique.
- Remember, it is healthy to be content but envy can eat us up (Prov. 14:30).

2. Rejoice in What I Do Have

- Thank Him for all that we have. Be faithful and wise stewards of everything God has given us.
- Happiness is not getting whatever we want. It is enjoying whatever we have.

3. Release What I Have to Help Others

- God does not want to just bless us for our own benefit. He wants us to share our blessings to help others (1 Tim. 6:17-19).
- It is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35).

4. Refocus on What is Going to Last

- Everything earthly is temporary. We must give our attention to permanent values and reorganize our lives around eternal priorities (2 Cor. 4:18).

Reflection: Is my lifestyle going to be determined by the Lord or the world?

Always be satisfied with what God has given us because God does not make mistakes. Everything that God gives is beautiful and our enjoyment depends on our outlook and attitude.

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