

## Godliness vs. Materialism

### I Timothy 6:6-10

#### I. Defining our terms

##### A. Godliness

1. Literally “piety”
2. Reverence and devotion to God
3. Used by Paul and Peter
  - a) 1 Tim.: 2:2; 2:10; 3:16; 4:7; 4:8; 6:3; 6:5; 6:6; 6:11
  - b) 2 Tim.: 3:5
  - c) Titus 1:1
  - d) 2 Peter: 1:3; 1:6; 1:7; 3:11

B. Contentment. A state of mind where you feel that what you have is sufficient. Luke 3:14; Philippians 4:11; 1 Tim. 6:8; Heb. 13:5; 3 John 1:10

C. So what is great gain? Living a life with reverence and devotion to God, and being satisfied that what you have is sufficient.

##### D. Why?

1. “For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.” – 1 Tim. 6:7
2. We cannot take anything material with us – Job 1:21  
But we can have an incorruptible treasure – Matt. 6:19-20;  
Gal. 6:7-8; 2 Tim. 4:7-8; Prov. 11:4
3. We can have something that eludes much of the world
  - a) We can have contentment
  - b) And confidence that “God will provide” – Gen. 22:8
  - c) Philippians 4:11; Matt. 6:25-34; Prov. 16:16-17; Eccl 4:6;  
Eccl. 5:10-17
  - d) We can avoid many of the miseries of this life –  
1 Tim. 6:9-10; Gal. 6:7-8

#### II. Defining Some More Terms

##### A. Love of money - *Philarguria*

1. Love – a deep, affectionate love; the kind of love and affection that a woman would have for her husband and children.  
Titus 2:3-4
2. Money – Literally “silver”

B. Materialism – “An interest in and desire for money, possessions, etc, rather than spiritual or ethical values” -- World English Dictionary

##### C. “All evil”

1. All kinds of, or some of all types of, evil
2. All the major branches of worldliness. 1 John 2:16

##### D. Examples

1. Lying – Ananias and Sapphira Acts 5:1-10
2. Stealing – Achan Joshua 7
3. Betrayal – Judas
4. Murder – Ahab and Jezebel 1 Kings 21
5. Selfishness – Nabal 1 Samuel 25 and the Rich Man of Luke 16

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### III. Materialism

- A. One of Satan's most productive snares
  - 1. Materialism appeals on so many levels – 1 John 2:16
    - a) Lust of the flesh – James 4:3
    - b) Lust of the eyes – “When I saw...” Joshua 7:21
    - c) Pride of life – So many people define themselves, and others, by their possessions
- B. Satan even tried to use materialism to tempt Jesus – Matt. 4:8-10

### IV. Consequences of Materialism

- A. Personal – 2 Tim. 6:9-10
  - 1. God has never accepted divided loyalty
    - a) No man can serve two masters. God requires our full commitment – Matt. 6:19-34; Rev. 3:16-17
  - 2. We will make a choice. There is no middle ground – Joshua 24:14-15; 1 Kings 18:21; Matt. 19:16-24
  - 3. Materialism will make us idolaters – Col. 3:5
  - 4. It will choke the word of God out of hearts (Matt. 13:3-8, 18-23; 2 Tim. 4:10), and cost us our faith (Rom. 10:17)
  - 5. Materialism will make us trade the eternal for the corruptible – Matt. 16:26; Luke 12:15-21; Matt. 6:19-20
  - 6. Reliance on the material will blind us to our spiritual needs – Rev. 3:17
  - 7. Materialism robs us of contentment and satisfaction – James 4:1-3
  - 8. It draws us away from sound doctrine – 2 Tim. 4:3-4
  - 9. We give things and people power over us – 1 Cor. 6:12
  - 10. We cannot escape the consequences – Gal. 6:7-8
- B. Family – Eph. 6:4; Eph. 5:25, 28-33
  - 1. Materialism takes precious time from family
  - 2. Spouse – Eph. 5:29
  - 3. Children – Eph. 6:4
  - 4. It robs children of a good example
  - 5. Examples: Achan, Nabal, David, Solomon, Ananias and Sapphira
- C. Church
  - 1. Materialism robs churches of workers – 2 Tim. 4:10
  - 2. It affects attendance – Matt. 13:3-8, 18-23
  - 3. It affects the contribution – 2 Cor. 9:7
  - 4. Ultimately it compromises the ability of the church to fulfill its mission

### V. Am I Materialistic?

- A. Am I content?
- B. Where do I seek contentment/happiness?

## **Godliness vs. Materialism**

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- C. Where are my priorities:
  - 1. In spending my time?
  - 2. In choosing my friends?
  - 3. In choosing my career?
- D. What kind of people do I date?
- E. Am I selfish? Gal. 6:9-10; James 1:27; 1 John 3:17; Eccl. 11:1-2; Psalm 41:1
- F. What am I willing to do to get what I want?
- G. What would I do to keep what I have? Matt. 19:16-22
- H. What place do my possessions occupy in my life?
- I. What impresses me? James 2:1-4
- J. Is it wrong to want to provide well for my family?
  - 1 Tim. 5:8; 2 Thess. 3:10
- K. Is Matt. 6:25-34 saying I'm materialistic if I plan for the future?
  - Prov. 6:6-11; Prov. 10:4-5; Prov. 20:4; Prov. 31:10-31;
  - James 4:13-16; Luke 12:16-21
- L. It is not wrong to enjoy God's blessings – Eccl. 2:24-26; Eccl. 5:18-20
- M. Is money/material wealth inherently bad?
  - 1. God blessed many of his people with riches: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Job, etc.
  - 2. It's a matter of perspective and priorities – Ecclesiastes

#### VI. How Do I Combat Materialism

- A. Choose the right goal, and keep your eyes on that goal –
  - 1 Cor. 9:23-27; 2 Tim. 4:6-8; Heb. 12:1-3
- B. Choose the right companions – 1 Cor. 15:33; Amos 3:3
- C. Always be vigilant – 1 Cor. 10:12; Prov. 16:18
- D. Do not envy the people of the world – Prov. 24:1-2, 19-20
- E. Do not look back – Num. 11:4-5
- F. Remember where true value lies – 2 Tim. 6:6-7; Job 1:21
  - 1. Your soul – Matt. 16:26; Mark 8:36; Matt. 6:20
  - 2. Your family
  - 3. Christian fellowship
- G. Trust in God's promises – Matt. 6:25-34; Prov. 3:7-10; Ps. 37:25
- H. Do not become entangled in the material – 2 Tim. 2:3-4; 1 Tim. 6:8
  - 1. Do not develop a taste for the material – Heb. 11:24-25
  - 2. Avoid debt and other worldly obligations –
    - Prov. 22:7; 2 Cor. 6:14
  - 3. Consider the influence of your friends
- I. When you need strength and faith:
  - 1. Go to the source – Rom. 10:17
  - 2. Ask for it – Luke 17:5; 1 Cor. 10:13
  - 3. Go to the right people for help – Rom. 14:19; 1 Thess. 5:11; Prov. 17:17; Prov. 18:24