



The Danger Zone

1 Timothy 6:6-19

The Big Idea: Getting the freedom financially to fully obey God.

The Bottom Line: Discontentment is fueled by awareness. Discontentment is bridled when you turn your attention from what you want to what others need. Once bridled, the appetite diminishes.

Review:

We are talking about getting our finances Back in the Black, and we've linked this to the laws of balance:

- Reference Point – Got to know
- Constant Correction
- Clear Objective – Honor God

We ended the first week with the reference point: “You should be knowin’ where all your money’s goin’.” Spy on your money.

The second week, we talked about our objective, which is to honor God with our money. Why? Because it all comes from, belongs to, and is distributed by God.

The third week, we began talking about Constant Corrections. Last week’s constant correction began with debt and the danger of consuming ourselves into slavery. Do the hard work of clawing your way out of debt!

Correction: Less debt, more savings. Save more. Charge less.

The fourth week, we talked about what we do with “extra”. Greed is the assumption that all the extra is for our consumption, but the real question we should ask is “God, why did you give me this extra?”

Correction: Pre-decide your giving and saving percentage and put it on autopilot. This keeps you from consuming all your extra.

Introduction:

Today, I want to address spending. Specifically, the dynamic that fuels our over-spending.

To begin our conversation, we must talk about discontentment. Discontentment is dissatisfaction with one's current financial circumstances.

The term I would like for you to associate with discontentment is: AWARENESS. Awareness fuels discontent. Awareness fuels spending.

Unlike past generations, we are bombarded with reminders of what we don't have. In the past, people REPLACED things when they broke, wore out, or got lost. Now we UPGRADE.

We are fine until we become aware of what we DON'T have.

Tension:

The problem is more stuff/money does not reduce discontentment.

The desire for stuff is like an appetite. More food does not resolve your desire for food. It's just the opposite, in fact. Appetites that are fed grow.

Truth:

What if we could become discontent with our incessant pursuit of stuff and our self-centered financial orientation?

Read: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

Takeaways:

Paul says to flee discontentment. It's dangerous.

Instead, Paul says to ...

1. Do good.
2. Be rich in good deeds.
3. Be generous.
4. Be willing to share.

Application

Conclusion:

This is a constant correction—correcting your constant pursuit of more.

Godliness with contentment brings great gain—real gain. The more you have, the more difficult this is to get a handle on.

Discontentment is bridled when you turn your attention from what you don't have to what others need.

Next Steps:

- ☐ Memorize 1 Timothy 6:18-19.
- ☐ Do good.
- ☐ Be rich in good deeds.
- ☐ Be generous.
- ☐ Be willing to share.
- ☐ Pre-decide your giving percentage.
- ☐ Systematically give. Put your giving on autopilot.

Discussion questions for group this week:

1.What does this teach me about God?

2.What does this teach me about me?

3.How do I apply this to my life?

4.If I could ask a question about this it would be....