



**THE LOVE CHALLENGE**  
**Part 4 – Love Is Content**  
**I Corinthians 13:1-6**

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**I. ENVY ALWAYS DAMAGES OUR RELATIONSHIPS.**

**A. Envy steals away personal peace and happiness.**

*1 Timothy 6:17 "God created everything in the world for our enjoyment."*

*Proverbs 14:30 "A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones!"*

**B. Envy causes us to make poor decisions.**

*Ecclesiastes 4:4 "I have learned why people work so hard to succeed. It's because they envy the things their neighbors have."*

*James 4:1 "What causes conflicts, fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?"*

**C. Envy creates bitterness.**

*Titus 3:3 "Our lives were full of resentment and envy. We hated others and they hated us."*

*James 3:16 "For where you find envy you find every evil practice."*

## II. THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON AGAINST ENVY IS **CONTENTMENT**.

*1 Timothy 6:6 “But godliness with contentment is great gain.”*

*Philippians 4:11 “Not that I speak from want; for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.”*

- A. The word contentment means: “Desiring no more than what one has; to be **satisfied**.”
- B. God does not mean that to be contented we are simply to accept the **status quo**. We aren't to simply accept **injustice**. We aren't to be satisfied with **sin** or **failure**. We are not to be satisfied with **what we know** or **how far we have grown** or **how deep our relationships are with God or others**. It is right to strive to **improve**, to learn, to grow, to develop. It is right to correct wrongs. So, there are some things we are **never** to be contented with.
- C. Our contentment is to come in two areas:
  - 1. We are to be contented with God's **leadership** in our life.
  - 2. We are to be contented with God's **provision** in our life.

*1 Samuel 2:7 “The Lord makes one poor and another rich; He brings one down and lifts another up.”*

- a. What God wants is our willingness to be **grateful** for what we already have.
- b. Then, God wants us to be contented with **whatever** He chooses to bless us.

*1 Timothy 6:6-8 “Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.”*

- c. God wants you to **trust** Him to give you what you need.

*Matthew 6:31-33 “So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' <sup>32</sup>For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. <sup>33</sup>But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”*

G. How do we **develop** contentment in our lives?

1. Stop **comparing** yourself to others.

*2 Corinthians 10:12 "We do not dare classify or compare ourselves. It is not wise."*

2. Decide that you are willing to live on what God has **already given** you.

*Proverbs 15:17 "Better is a dish of vegetables where love is, than a fattened ox and hatred with it."*

3. Decide you are willing for **others** to live on more than you.

4. Decide you are willing for others to "**succeed**" beyond you.

5. **Give** to others in need.

*1 Timothy 6:17-19 "Tell those who are rich 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 being ready to share with others whatever God has given them. By doing this they will be storing up real treasure for themselves in heaven. It is the only safe investment for eternity."*

6. Focus on loving the **person** you are tempted to envy.

*CDs and DVDs of today's sermon or previous sermons are available for purchase after the service at our Water's Edge Resource Center.*

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