



## CONTENT With Being DISCONTENT

Tyler King

The prolific author and theologian, Francis Schaeffer, considered the Tenth Commandment to be integral in the other nine commandments given to Moses and the people of Israel. He states, "It is an intriguing factor that this is the last command the God gives us in the Ten Commandments and thus the hub of the whole matter. Actually we break this last commandment, **not to covet**, before we break any of the others" (Schaeffer, *True Spirituality*, 7). It is through the inward manifestation of discontentment that we as humans seek the things which are not ours. This vile and toxic behavior has led to numerous problems. And yet, rather than seeking a cure to the cancer that is covetousness, we have unapologetically become content with being discontent.

**Discontentment Proves to be Irrational** (1 Samuel 8) – While Samuel was judging over Israel, the people's discontentment feasted on what the neighboring nations were doing. The population begged, "gives us a king to judge like all the nations" (8:5). God assured Samuel, "... For they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being King over them" (8:7). The problem was not found in seeking a different hierarchal system than what the judges provided. Rather, the dilemma came from irrationally substituting God as king with mortal, finite, fallible, man. Sometimes in our untamed covetousness, we blow past the rationality of seeking God.

**Discontentment Damages Communities** (Joshua 7) – We would be woefully wrong to think our covetous deeds go unnoticed by individuals around us. In the case of Achan, it caused God to forfeit what would've otherwise been an easy victory. After the embarrassing military defeat of Ai, Achan shamefully admits, "I saw... I coveted... I took" (7:21). Achan and his family was the sole reason why the campaign at Ai ended the way it did. What battles are we forfeiting for the sake of our discontentment?

**Discontentment Demands Attention** (Colossians 3:5) – As Paul communicates what it means to live a new life raised in Christ, he proceeds to discuss some of the sins that hinder holy living. Sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire and greed (other translations, "Covetousness") are to be *put to death*. When these sins are living in our consciousness, they claw and lacerate our devotion to God. Such was the case with Israel and with Achan. Paul furthers the gravity of covetousness by stating, "which is idolatry" – it is that which takes the place of God Himself. When we starve discontentment from our attention, its tenacity will loosen.

We ought not leave the discussion in such a negative light though. For there are exceptional occasions in which scripture encourages individuals to engage in being covetous. Paul would exhort the assembly in Corinth, "Earnestly desire spiritual gifts" (1 Cor. 12:31, 14:1). While "love" would prove to be the more excellent way, Paul provided the imperative to seek ways in which someone can be a blessing to the members of the church. We ought to be people who covet love, who seek God, and who ignore the snares of temptation.

## WEEKLY PRAYER REQUESTS

- AMY SAVAGE Ruth and Phillip's daughter has pneumonia
- LYN'D DUNNWOODY Debbie's Brother in Law's Daughter, has breast cancer
- MELISSA DEWBERRY having back problems and will be receiving treatment
- MIKE BRAMBLETT'S FATHER is awaiting biopsy results.
- MR. PRICE at Brookwood, his wife was put into hospice care
- NATALIE KIZZIRE encouragement in her walk with Christ
- LARRY HARCROW was in a bad car wreck this and has serious injuries
- DEBORAH, friend of Kitty, lost her 2nd husband in 3 years
- KATIE, friend of Kitty's daughter, has been having life struggles lately
- JAMIE KELLEY, James Hall's daughter, is having health struggles
- JAMES HALL needing prayers and is needing encouragement
- LANETTE LISHMAN, Lee Smith's sister, has COVID, still waiting for heart valve surgery
- HEATHER MELSON, Stephanie Mills' old coworker, lost her baby before birth.
- BETTY RAMAYS brother's son is having problems
- REAGAN WATKINS is at Children's Hospital with Pneumonia / COVID
- MARLOWE CHASON, Cicero's relative, born prematurely 12/14. Pray she gains weight
- CADEN HACKNEY, Cicero's relative, 9 month old who had open heart surgery Nov. 30th
- TYLER MCCRAW, student at BHS, recovering from surgery
- SHIRLEY CARTE, friend of the Daileys, diagnosed with breast cancer
- RANDY PERKINS, friend of Ken Ramay, diagnosed with cancer.
- KENZI SWINDLE and family she has cancer and is 4 yrs old and want to be home.
- KOLI'S GRANDMA is having health struggles
- RUBY MILLIGAN, Doug's SIL, has T-Cell Lymphoma. Pray for her and Don.

### ATTENDANCE

Worship A.M. ... 78  
 Worship P.M. .... 48  
 Wed P.M. ....52

### CONTRIBUTION

Last Week.....\$2574.00.

### BUDGET

Weekly.....\$3,000.00

