

Contentedness

Hebrews 13:5

Set your way of life
without money-loving,
being satisfied with present things;
for He has said,
"Not at all will I leave you,
not at all will I forsake you,
never!"

Commanded

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*Set your way of life without money-loving,
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Contentedness.

It is commanded.

An unshakable contentedness consists of at least three factors:

- 1) *R*elationship;
- 2) *P*lace; and
- 3) *F*unction.

Relationship is my personal interaction with others. My contentedness in relationships will be manifested by my security in who I am and in my ability to love others freely. I will love God first and then accord my neighbor the consideration for his good that I would *and do* accord myself and which I wish to be accorded to me by others.

Place is my sense of myself relative to my environment, both time and space. I have a place in the kingdom of God as a Christian, and I have a place in my community as a human. In both, I must again

have a secure feeling that God has made no mistakes.

DIScontent is, then, a call for me to *improve* my understanding of my Relationships, my Place, my Function, or some combination of these three things.

I am where I am because He wants me here. He has given me criteria and wisdom to choose my worship and fellowship environment (= church, *ekklesia*, gathering). I have both things to offer and things to learn there.

Function is my awareness of my abilities. God has given me certain **capacities** and certain **com-**mands. I am content when I know His supply is sufficient for my **obedience**. I know where I am **COM-**MON with all men. Where I am **UNIQUE**, I know that God will develop me at a natural pace. I know that I must consciously counter my natural arrogance in order to have a “sane estimate” of myself, Rom. 12:3. He works with me as a satisfied recipient of His pruning.

These three factors shape one another and interact with one another. None of them really operates in isolation from the others. Each of them assumes personal interaction with God as intelligent, immediate **author**: both of definitions/communications *and* of my situation right now.

DIScontent is merely a challenge to one or more of these factors.

DIScontent is, then, a call for me to *improve* my understanding and practice of my **R**elationships, my **P**lace, my **F**unction, or some combination of these three things.