

Healthy Church – Generosity & Contentment that Glorifies God

1 Timothy 6

Today we wrap up this sermon series in 1 Timothy on what it means to be a “Healthy Church”. We have looked at the importance of:

- The gospel, & how it is to shape everything we do/are as the Church!
- Prayer, and how prayer fuels the gospel & the expansion of the Church!
- Structure, & how a good structure honors Christ in the Church/world!
- Leaders, & how they are called to take a serving posture in the Church!
- Doctrine, that is intended to protect the Church!
- Good labor, & how hard work enhances the effectiveness of the Church!
- Recognizing false teaching, teachers, & how to properly respond to them!

Today we will look at generosity & contentment that brings glory to God, and we will read from **1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19** as we wrap up this series!

“But godliness with contentment is great gain.” This statement contrasts the previous verse of those ***“imagining that godliness is a means of gain.”***

Some people want God for what they can get from Him... Others want Him for what He has already given, & for who He is in our lives... Which are we?

What do you hope to gain from being a Christian? Do you want worldly things & hope that God is a means by which you can attain them? **Or do you want God Himself?** Is having the Giver enough, or do you desire certain gifts?

If we think primarily of God as a “heavenly vending machine” then we think wrongly. God is more like the breath we breathe & the sun that rises daily!

He’s given us life... physical & spiritual life... He sustains us by His provisions. **What more do we need from God that He has not already provided?**

Contentment starts with being satisfied in Him! If He is not enough already, then we will never be satisfied, and will always want more in this world!

Vs. 7 – “For we brought nothing into the world, & we cannot take anything out of the world.” We know this to be true, but do we live as if it is?

What are we chasing after in this life? **Happiness...** How is that measured? **Riches...** How much is ever really enough? **Comfort...** Ours or others?

Vs. 8 – “But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.” Are we? What kind of food... clothing... from where? Are we truly content?

Vs. 9-10 – “But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin & destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils.”

Money is not the problem... it is the love of money that is! Riches are not necessarily a snare... but the desire to be rich is a trap!

So, should we not plan for our future... retirement... leaving an inheritance? **The answer to these questions depends on the costs that are involved!**

- If planning for these things inhibits us from being generous right now...
- **From being faithful to God in giving of our tithes & offerings right now...**
- From being content with where God has us... It’s time for different plans!

But if our plans include being able to be generous in continual & increasing ways... being able to retire & give back in more than just monetary ways... To leave an inheritance to not only our kids but others also... then yes do so!

Vs. 17 – “As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.”

If you have riches (we all do in this country), don’t show it off... that leads you & others to sin! **Also don’t trust in riches because it can all be gone tomorrow!**

May we put our trust in God alone, who has provided for our needs & given us the opportunity to enjoy what we do have, as well as share with others!

Vs. 18-19 – “They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous & ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.”

That which is **“truly life”** (real living) is found not in the abundance of our riches, but in the extent of our generosity and contentment!

Examples: Orphan kids on a make-shift playground in Nicaragua inviting others to play... A mom/wife in Costa Rica sweeping her dirt floor just to have us over as guests... The desire, & joy, of those with nothing (in worldly standards) worshipping God every Sunday & bringing their gifts before Him...

True generosity & contentment is found here too... but it’s harder to see...

We are called to be **“Storing up treasure as a good foundation for the future”** But that is not measured in a 401K... it is measured in acts of generosity & contentment... for this truly is “great gain” ... & **the DNA of a healthy church!**

Healthy Church – Generosity & Contentment that Glorifies God

1 Timothy 6

Today we wrap up this sermon series in 1 Timothy on what it means to be a “Healthy Church”. We have looked at the importance of:

- The gospel, & how it is to shape everything we do/are as the Church!
- Prayer, and how prayer fuels the gospel & the expansion of the Church!
- Structure, & how a good structure honors Christ in the Church/world!
- Leaders, & how they are called to take a serving posture in the Church!
- Doctrine, that is intended to protect the Church!
- Good labor, & how hard work enhances the effectiveness of the Church!
- Recognizing false teaching, teachers, & how to properly respond to them!

Today we will look at _____ that brings glory to God, and we will read from **1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19** as we wrap up this series!

“But godliness with contentment is _____ This statement contrasts the previous verse of those *“imagining that godliness is a means of gain.”*

Some people want God for what they can get from Him... Others want Him for what He has already given, & for who He is in our lives... Which are we?

What do you hope to gain from being a Christian? Do you want worldly things & hope that God is a means by which you can attain them? Or do you want _____ Is having the Giver enough, or do you desire certain gifts?

If we think primarily of God as a “heavenly vending machine” then we think wrongly. God is more like the breath we breathe & the sun that rises daily!

He’s given us life... physical & spiritual life... He sustains us by His provisions. What more do we need from God that He has not _____

Contentment starts with being satisfied _____ If He is not enough already, then we will never be satisfied, and will always want more in this world!

Vs. 7 – “For we brought nothing into the world, & we cannot take anything out of the world.” We know this to be true, but do we live as if it is?

What are we chasing after in this life? _____ How is that measured? _____ How much is ever really enough? _____ Ours or others?

Vs. 8 – “But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.”
Are we? What kind of food... clothing... from where? Are we truly content?

Vs. 9-10 – “But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin & destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils.”

Money is not the problem... it is _____ of money that is! Riches are not necessarily a snare... but the desire to be rich is a trap!

So, should we not plan for our future... retirement... leaving an inheritance? The answer to these questions depends on _____ that are involved!

- If planning for these things inhibits us from being generous right now...
- From being faithful to God in giving of our _____ right now...
- From being content with where God has us... It’s time for different plans!

But if our plans include being able to be generous in continual & increasing ways... being able to retire & give back in more than just monetary ways... To leave an inheritance to not only our kids but others also... then yes do so!

Vs. 17 – “As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be _____ nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.”

If you have riches (we all do in this country), don’t show it off... that leads you & others to sin! Also don’t trust in riches because it can all be _____

May we put our trust in God alone, who has provided for our needs & given us the opportunity to enjoy what we do have, as well as share with others!

Vs. 18-19 – “They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous & ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is _____

That which is ***“truly life”*** (real living) is found not in the abundance of our riches, but in the extent of our generosity and contentment!

Examples: Orphan kids on a make-shift playground in Nicaragua inviting others to play... A mom/wife in Costa Rica sweeping her dirt floor just to have us over as guests... The desire, & joy, of those with nothing (in worldly standards) worshipping God every Sunday & bringing their gifts before Him...

True generosity & contentment is found here too... but it’s harder to see...

We are called to be ***“Storing up _____ as a good foundation for the future”***
But that is not measured in a 401K... it is measured in acts of generosity & contentment... for this truly is “great gain” ... & the DNA of a _____