

Building the Church Requires Guarding the Doctrinal Gate

1 Timothy 6:3-10

The source of our contentment is the pure gospel of Jesus Christ!

1. The problem (v3-5)

- A. Bad teaching... (v3)
- B. ...comes from a bad heart... (v4a)
- C. ...and leads to bad results... (v4b-5a)
- D. ...and here's the root problem (v5b)

2. The truth (v6-10)

- A. There is great gain in godliness with contentment (v6)
- B. You don't use godliness to get anything (v7-10)

3. What to do about it

- A. Make much of Jesus
- B. Have done with lesser things
- C. Remember Paul's formula
- D. Be content

FOR FURTHER THOUGHT:

1. When in your life have you been the most content? When have you been the least content? What does that tell you about where you find your contentment?
2. What distinguishes “different doctrine” (v3) from sound teaching? (v3, see also 1:3-7)
3. “Godliness” occurs 9 times in 1 Timothy (2:2, 2:10, 3:16, 4:7, 4:8, 6:3, 6:5, 6:6, 6:11). It’s sometimes translated “piety.” Looking over those passages, how would you define it? What motivates our godliness? What does Paul mean when he says, “Godliness with contentment is great gain”? How is that formula illustrated in Paul’s life? How is it illustrated in yours?
4. How much is Jesus the subject of your conversations? If your answer is “Not much,” what might be behind that? Is there anything you need to do?
5. What are some of the issues we’re facing in our culture today? Which of the concentric circles Pastor Ken talked about (discuss, disagree agreeably, decide, divide over, die for) would you put them in? What happens when any those issues take our attention off of the gospel?
6. How do we avoid “mission creep,” the tendency to allow lesser things to usurp the place of the main thing?