

Articles and Sermons :: Trading Contentment for Gadgets by Jim Bob Howard

Trading Contentment for Gadgets by Jim Bob Howard - posted by davym (), on: 2014/7/22 12:13

Trading Contentment for Gadgets

Theyâ€™re designed to make us discontented, covetous, and miserable, unless we buy, buy, buy. â€œHow many new gadgets do you need?â€ â€œJust a few more.â€ The Lord offers us the kingdom, if weâ€™ll seek Him first and His righteousness. And we trade that for what the world has to offer. We look to the world for our worth and to tell us how we should look, what we should pursue and how many children we should have. Then we wonder why weâ€™re miserable. Could it be that weâ€™re chasing after the wrong thing? As soon as we succumb to having the latest gadget or the newest hair-style or the even the best â€œwitnessâ€ t-shirt, it immediately becomes â€œso five minutes ago,â€ and now we must chase after the new newest thing.

Why is it, do you suppose, that during the daytime, when stay-at-home moms are the only ones there watching, that the networks run Victoria Secret ads? Are all these stay-at-home moms thinking, â€œYeah, if I just had that lingerie, I could really do a better job of taking care of these children and providing delicious meals for my family?â€ No, theyâ€™re thinking, â€œIâ€™ll never look like that again! Indeed, I never looked like that.â€ In fact, as one woman who ministers to women says, â€œYou know, there are six billion women in the world who donâ€™t look like supermodels. And only six that do.â€ She actually has to remind ladies of this, because the world tells them it ainâ€™t so.

So, when they donâ€™t look like that VS model, or they donâ€™t have the latest high-tech Swiffer or they donâ€™t travel to exotic places and have romantic getaways, they get depressed. After all, â€œtheyâ€™re worth it,â€ Lâ€™Oreal tells them. So, now we have ads on the tube and in the check-out line magazines that offer solutions to their depression: chocolate, Prozac etc

Discontentment Starts with a Lie

I say, who are these Madison Avenue guys to be telling my wife that sheâ€™s not good enough? And when sheâ€™s bombarded with that lie every thirty seconds, how much harder will it be for her to believe me that she is an excellent wife whose worth is far above rubies? And how much harder than that is it for her to believe her Heavenly Father when He tells her that she is a princess in His kingdom?

Oscar Wilde wisely said, â€œFashion is a form of ugliness so intolerable that we have to alter it every six months.â€ And what is fashion, but boys on Madison Avenueâ€™s way of getting us to come back for more to satisfy our discontent.

The Apostle Paul, on the other hand, told us:

â€œ

Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. (1 Timothy 6:6-8).

What shall we say then? Kill the TV? By all means. Are there good things that come to us through the television? Sure. But the preponderance of sewage it dumps directly into our living rooms warrants great prudence in its use. No sense in having cable or network television oozing out of it 24/7. For all the good it delivers can be had without connecting it to the raw sewer line. And thatâ€™s not only the advertisements.

Contentment & Trust

In his Sermon on the Mount, the Lord Jesus Christ told us:

â€œ

Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you

by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Jesus isn't even talking about having the latest greatest cell phone with all the snazzy colors. He's not talking about the latest Beach diet or having the right Sleep Number or your father's Oldsmobile. Jesus is telling us not to get all wrapped up in what we're going to eat at our next meal or whether we're going to have anything to wear when we wake up in the morning. Get off the merry-go-round, look to your heavenly Father for what you need, and ask Him for what you want. Then leave it in His hands to work all things to your good.

Re: Trading Contentment for Gadgets by Jim Bob Howard - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2014/7/25 21:19

Quite a few years ago the Holy Spirit convicted me of the futility of acquiring the latest gadgets. You know I really wanted something - bad. I lived for the day when this desire was fulfilled and when it was I was so pleased, so happy! But. But my pleasure was short-lived. I soon wanted another and the process was repeated. Before too long the LORD showed me an ongoing pattern in my desire and its inability to fulfill.

Realizing the inadequacy of things fulfilling a body is so liberating. I do not need the latest, the newest if what I have works well. In fact I get a tad bit upset if something breaks and needs replacing - I think it should last as long as I do! When a person is no longer haunted by the pursuit, the acquisition of the latest, the newest you are liberated to pursue your own abilities, gifts and talents and become creative to make do with what you have.

(I love to sew...know what I love to do? I buy end of the bolt fabric remnants and mix/match fabrics and make girls dresses. People learn I am doing this and they give me stashes of remnants. While I enjoy buying for a particular purpose, it gets to be really fun to mix/match colors...Otherwise these fabrics will likely have been thrown away.)

Good article, Dave.