

TAKING IT HOME

1. Planning your spending ahead of time by living on a budget is the key to financial peace and freedom. For those that currently have a budget, share with your group how you budget and how it impacts your finances. For those that currently do not have a budget, what has kept you from creating a budget?
2. In response to this week's sermon, what are some specific financial goals you would to accomplish over the next 4 weeks? With your group, lift up each other's financial goals needs in prayer. Ask God for wisdom in understanding His plan for your finances.

YOU NEED A PLAN

In order to get the most out of this series, we will list some optional activities each week you might consider doing this week. These are designed to help you work toward experiencing God's financial freedom, making God your master and money your slave.

This week's activity is to **fill out a budget**. If you have never done a budget in your household before, start with a simple one. Take time to write down your regularly monthly income and spending. Next, determine where you can eliminate unnecessary spending as well as determining ways you can begin saving money. Forms to create your budget are provided at www.edgewaterchurch.org/freedom.

FINANCIAL FREEDOM
How Do I Get Contentment in My Life?
Luke 12:15, 1 Timothy 6:6-10

Pastor John Fanous
Edgewater Covenant Church
February 6, 2011

FINANCIAL FREEDOM: HOW DO I GET CONTENTMENT IN MY LIFE?

Luke 12:15, 1 Timothy 6:6-10

REVIEW (Matthew 25:14-19)

- A right relationship with **God** and a right relationship with **money** lead to **financial peace**.
- God is the **master**, we are the **stewards**, and money is the **slave**.

3 TRAITS OF THOSE WHO ARE CONTENT

1. THEY _____

"Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment." 1 Timothy 6:17

2. THEY _____

"The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty." Proverbs 21:5, ESV

3. THEY _____ ON WHAT LIFE IS REALLY ABOUT

Then [Jesus] said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." Luke 12:15

Growth Group Homework

For the Week of February 6, 2011

QUICK REVIEW

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. In **Philippians 4:11**, the Apostle Paul emphasized that contentment is learned, not acquired with success or possessions. How was your definition of contentment confirmed, challenged or changed by this week's teaching?
2. There are many areas where discontentment can show up (i.e. job success, housing, self-image, education, relationships, clothing, health, money, possessions, and much more). Which area, if any, do you tend to struggle with the most when it comes to becoming or remaining content?

Can you think of any healthy and/or unhealthy ways you've personally dealt with discontentment?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. The book of Ecclesiastes records King Solomon's search for contentment in a world where he had everything at his fingertips. Take a look at what he learned by reading the following passages and then jotting down his insights about the pursuit of contentment.

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

Ecclesiastes 4:4-8

Ecclesiastes 5:10-20

Which of these passages is most important for you to remember regarding contentment and why?

2. In the late 1800's Horatio Spafford wrote the famous hymn, "It is Well with My Soul," in response to the tragic death of his daughters in a shipwreck. Here is the first verse of that song:

***"When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea-billows roll,
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to know;
It is well, it is well with my soul."***

His words lead us to believe that he had found contentment even amidst horrible circumstances. Biblical contentment does not mean we have to love everything just the way it is. But it does mean we can cope with even those things we most dread. How can **Psalm 46:1-3 & 10-11** help us better learn to be content even in hard times that we'd rather bypass?