

We are able to do this because we realize that anything we might lose now is going to be more than made up for in what we have in Jesus Christ.

Discussion Questions

- What does covetousness look like? What does contentment look like?
- Can you think of anyone who has been a good example to you of godly contentment?

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

If you think about the 10th commandment it has aspects that are God-directed and others that are directed toward our neighbor. This week we learn that the 10th commandment requires first, full contentment with our own condition. This is primarily directed toward God as we recognize the circumstances He has sovereignly placed in our lives. Contentment is acknowledgement of God's right to direct our lives and his goodness in always working for our best. The second part of the answer this week says we are to be content, with a right and charitable frame of spirit toward our neighbor, and all that is his. This is a responsibility that we have toward our neighbor. Discontent and coveting start with accusations against God for what he hasn't given us, and then turn toward our neighbor. We look at what our neighbor has and think it would be better if it had been given to us. Christian godliness casts off such envy. Rather the Christian is called to love his neighbor as himself. How do you feel when you have received something good? You rejoice. You are excited. That is how we ought to respond when we see our neighbor has received something we desire. Romans 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice...

Discussion Questions

- How easy is it for you to rejoice when others get what you want. Can you remember or share times God blessed you to be able to rejoice rather than covet?

Baptist Catechism Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, June 1st, 2025)

Baptist Catechism Question #85

Q: What is required in the tenth commandment?

A: *The tenth commandment requireth full contentment with our own condition, with a right and charitable frame of spirit toward our neighbor, and all that is his.*

Suggested Memory Verse

Philippians 4:11-13 I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

This week we continue to look at the 10th commandment, *you shall not covet*. As we noted, this commandment deals directly with the heart. While we are commanded not to covet, that entails something positive we are commanded to do. We are to be content with what we have. Paul had learned this sort of contentment of the heart.

Philippians 4:11 *I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.*

Contentment is not natural to us as sinners. It is something we must learn to walk in as Paul did. We can look back through the Bible and see many who had not learned this. The angels who fell with Satan did not lack anything of all the glories of heaven, yet they were not content. Adam and Eve as they lived in the paradise of the Garden had not learned to be content with all those gifts. They coveted the place of God. If the angels and our first parents failed to learn contentment in their innocence, how much harder is it for us to learn it in our sinful estate? How then did Paul learn to be content? Ultimately, he needed to be taught by God himself. This is the promise of God in the gospel. Isaiah 54:13 *All your children shall be taught by the Lord.* Contentment is worked in the heart of a believer by the Holy Spirit. It is then something we learn and grow in by walking in contentment day by day.

Discussion Questions

- What about our sinful hearts make it so hard to be content with what God has given us?
- What are some ways you might learn to walk in contentment in your life?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Who needs to learn contentment? We might be tempted to think certain people have an easier time learning contentment than others. The rich have everything they could want. Surely they are content! The poor live simple lives and don't know what they are missing. Surely they are content. The reality is that all sinful men are consumed with covetousness. The rich have much and yet the more they have the more they desire to obtain. The more they grasp the more they worry that they will lose their riches. Like a drunkard, the more he drinks the more thirsty he becomes. Likewise, the poor of this world worry for the next meal, the next bed, the next roof on their heads. How can they find contentment when all that seems important in this life belongs only to their neighbors? All men are prone to covetousness. While they are all required by God's law to contentment, their sinful natures are utterly opposed to this way of thinking. To expect a sinner to live content with God's provision is like expecting a fish to fly or a rock to swim. True contentment is something that only comes from a heart saved by grace. That doesn't mean it's always natural for us. It does mean that all sinners who are saved by Jesus are called to learn contentment at his feet.

Discussion Questions

- Who do you think has an easier time being content? What do you find yourself wishing for to make you content?
- Why is contentment only truly possible for those who have believed in Jesus?

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Contentment is the requirement of God's holy law on every person. While the natural man is filled with covetousness and has no hope for true contentment, the one who has been saved by Jesus is taught by God to walk in growing contentment. But what is contentment exactly? Some have mistakenly thought that contentment is the same as not feeling anything. By this way of thinking, if I'm content with a particularly difficult situation then I'm perfectly happy and don't feel any distress at all. This is what we might call being a 'stoic'. I might lose my job, crash my car, get severely ill, or even lose a loved one, and I need to act 'like nothing has happened' or even 'act like I'm giddy and happy' despite the loss. This sort of idea is very common in Eastern religions that value disconnecting from your emotions, but it is not a Christian way of thinking. For the Christian I can experience strong emotional responses to difficult circumstances and at the same time be content with God's direction of events. Often in the Psalms the singer cries in despair and longs for salvation, all the while trusting God and expressing contentment with God's plan. Jesus, himself, labored in prayer with such grief that he sweated drops of blood. Yet his ultimate cry was, "Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." We too ought to lay out our troubles to God with cries for relief all the while trusting God and leaving ourselves to his sovereign hand.

Discussion Questions

- What is the difference between crying out to God and complaining?
- What's wrong with trying to respond to trouble by 'emptying your emotions'?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Contentment is placed in the heart of believers by God. It is the positive command for all men, and especially for those who trust in Jesus Christ. Yesterday we noted that contentment is not an absence of emotion or a refusal to crying out to God when we are suffering. What then does it look like. Just as covetousness is an activity of the heart that then works itself out in our actions, contentment is found in the heart but is seen in the outward actions. 1 Timothy 6:6 *Godliness with contentment is great gain.* If we want to know what contentment looks like, it looks like a life of godliness. The temptation when we face difficulty is to sin in order to get what we want. We want more money, so we covet and steal. We want companionship so we lust and take what isn't ours. We want pleasures, so we abandon our duties and spend our time on things that don't last. We sin because we think it will provide what we want. True contentment looks at our situation and decides to obey God. We obey even when it seems we will lose what we want. Holiness becomes more important than our temporal desires. How can the content heart obey God even at great loss?