

How many of you have days that go something like this? Wake up – never enough sleep. You go make coffee and before you know it you have to go to work – never enough time. As you go throughout the work day – never enough energy. You get paid – never enough money. You stop by the store to get something new for your house – never enough things. You try to relax and spend time with your family but you need to go to sleep for work tomorrow – never enough time. Repeat.

This is the world we live in in 21st Century America. We are hardwired to think: NEVER ENOUGH _____.

- We live in a society where we are constantly WANTING MORE.
- More sleep, more time, more energy, more money, more things, etc.

The Effects of Wanting More – You Get More – Rick Warren

1. More Fatigue
 - Always working harder to make more money
 - Getting exhausted for things
 - When we're young we give up health for money, when old give up money for health.
 - **Proverbs 23:4**
2. More Expenses
 - Grass is greener on the other side, so is the water bill.
 - **Proverbs 23:5; Ecclesiastes 5:11**
 - Long-lost relatives, higher taxes, more stuff, housekeeper, gardener, accountant, etc.
 - We think we don't make enough, but we want too much
3. More Anxiety
 - Fewer things you have the less to worry about, more = more worry
 - We have so much to take care of that we rent buildings to store it. It just sits there.
 - **Ecclesiastes 5:12**
 - Worried about every little thing – investing, saving, interest, etc.
4. More Conflict
 - When you add up 1-3, you get 4.
 - **Proverbs 15:27**
 - #1 cause of divorce is financial strain or tension
 - With money, a lot of the time we think we control it, but it controls us.
5. More Dissatisfaction
 - We think getting things will make us happy
 - Happy short-term but not long-term
 - Have to get the newest upgrades – phone, shoes, television, etc.
 - **Ecclesiastes 5:10**

Do you want less fatigue, less expenses, less anxiety, less conflict, less dissatisfaction? You must learn the secret.

Philippians 4:12 – The secret is contentment! The reason why it is a secret is because by nature, we are not contented people! 4 steps

1. Stop Comparing
 - When we go into somebody else's house we immediately start comparing – TV, furniture, art, kitchen.
 - **2 Corinthians 10:12**
 - Comparing leads to covetousness. Desires are not bad but when it is uncontrolled = covetousness.
2. Enjoy What You Have
 - When we stop comparing, we realize all God has given us.
 - **Ecclesiastes 5:19** – When I have ____, I'll be happy... Never enough ____.

- God has given us our things to enjoy! **1 Timothy 6:17** – We ARE rich. I'm grateful for _____.
3. Understand Life
- We need to understand what our lives are actually about
 - **Luke 12:15** – Our life is NOT about things. Not about a pile.
 - Life is not about the temporal things of this Earth.
4. Focus on Forever
- We need to focus on the things that are eternal! **2 Corinthians 4:18**
 - 2 things we know are forever.
 - God – So we serve him with everything.
 - Word - **1 Peter 1:24-25** – Believe news, internet, magazines? No. Why do we spend so much time on those?

In our pursuit of happiness, we really only have two options: work more or want less. We can work harder and try to get that one thing that will make us happy but it won't last. But if we want less, if we are contented people that is the way to happiness.

The largest reason why we should be content is if we have been baptized into Christ then we have security and satisfaction because we know who we belong to! That alone should make us the most contented people in the world! **Psalm 17:15**. God sent his son to die for us so we would be cleansed of sin. That ought to make us satisfied with any and every situation we are in. That satisfaction, that contentment is only available to those in Christ.