



# Living Well

## The Character of Marriage



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Check out these websites for more information:

For more detailed information about the ministry - [www.livingwelloc.org](http://www.livingwelloc.org)  
Photos and writings about the ministry - [www.livingwelloc.blogspot.com](http://www.livingwelloc.blogspot.com)  
Encouragement/culture on marriage - [www.livingwellinmarriage.blogspot.com](http://www.livingwellinmarriage.blogspot.com)  
Marriage events in the state, resources for marriage - [www.marriagenetworkok.net](http://www.marriagenetworkok.net)  
Making Marriage Memorable blog - [www.marriagenetworkok.nblogger.com](http://www.marriagenetworkok.nblogger.com)

### True Contentment ...

**True contentment is the power of getting out of any situation all that there is in it.**  
G.K. Chesterton

**True contentment comes as I find joy in what we have instead of complaining about what I do not have.**

Contentment comes when I enjoy our material possessions and circumstances instead of complaining or being dissatisfied.

Instead of complaining about my house, **I become thankful for having a place to live** and I purpose to make the best use of it. So, I will take care of it, clean it, paint it, and fix it up as much as I can.

I recognize that it is a **gift from God** and I am a good steward of what He has

given me. It doesn't mean that I don't make plans or work towards a better house.

But I am not angry about where I live; I am not complaining. I am not neglectful of the house.

I have to ask myself, **"what or who brings real satisfaction to my life?"**

**If I am looking to anyone or anything else apart from God to bring satisfaction to my life, I will never be content.**

When I get to the place in my relationship with Him that He satisfies my life, then the other good things in life are the icing on the cake - not the basis of life but that "something extra."

My relationships **bring me extra joy**; they are not the basis of my happiness.

A nice home **brings gratitude in my heart**, not something I demand or think I deserve.

A good savings account **gives me the opportunity to give and serve more**, not the basis of my security.

*But godliness with contentment is great gain.... But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.* (1 Timothy 6:6,8)

Jerry Bridges writes:  
*The contented person experiences the sufficiency of God's provision for his needs and the sufficiency of God's grace for his circumstances. He believes God will indeed meet all his material needs and that He will work in all his circumstances for his good. The godly person has found what the greedy or envious or discontented person always searches for but never finds. He has found satisfaction and rest in his soul.*

### Contentment defined .....

The Bible and the dictionary define contentment as **being satisfied with what one is or has; not wanting more or anything else.** The attitude of having enough characterizes contentment.

Discontentment (**opposite** of being content) displays itself through being unhappy, dissatisfied, restless, and/or disagreeable. We often describe contentment as a sense of peace.

However God most often speaks of being **content in the New Testament in terms of financial status or material possessions.**

Paul said in Philippians 4:1-12, *I am not saying this because I am in need, for **I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.** I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. **I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation,***

*whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.*

We all know people who are discontent - continually looking for a different job, an angle to make a lot of money fast, better car/house, or changing their looks. It is not wrong to do any of those things, but it is the attitude of discontent that is motivating them.

*Contentment makes poor men rich; discontentment makes rich men poor.* Benjamin Franklin

On the reverse side:

**Contented Marriage**

**Origin of Discontent**

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## WE'RE ON THE WEB!

www.livingwellokc.org

www.livingwellokc.blogspot.com

www.livingwellinmarriage.blogspot.com

### CLASS:

**Living Well in Marriage**

**February 12 5-6:30**

@Putnam City Baptist

11401 N Rockwell

Oklahoma City

**Cost:** \$15/person

**For:** married, engaged, or  
"seriously dating" couples

**Call us @792-2586**

for more info

## The Contented Marriage

***How would contentment as a state of mind affect a marriage?***

As long as I think that there is someone out there that can make me happy or make me feel better about myself or make me feel loved, then I will be **discontent** in my marriage.

**My eyes and mind will begin to wander.** My attitude will "The grass is greener on the other side of the fence."

Maybe it is greener because it is cared for. The grass on my side of the fence would be greener if I water, nourish, and care for it.

**The same principles hold true in having contentment in marriage,**

as discussed in the section on true contentment.

Proverbs 5 is a warning to stay away from the temptations of adultery. Proverbs 5:18 says "may you rejoice in the wife of your youth."

**No one can satisfy those needs in my life but God.**

When God is my source of satisfying life, my marital relationship becomes a place where I give to the other person out of what God has given to me. It is a place of giving, not of seeing what I can get.

**Instead of thinking and complaining about what I am unhappy with, I enjoy the good traits of my spouse.**

**I express appreciation** to my spouse for his strengths and his character. **I notice** what he/she does for me and for the family. **I thank** him for the little things and the big things. **I take time** to look at all the good in the person God has given me. **I thank Him for giving me a perfect gift and I express gratitude to Him for His goodness in that person.**

**For most couples, it takes years to find contentment in their marriage.** Their discontent usually comes from an uneasiness that they have on the inside. They keep looking for a way to fill that void, a

way to find peace. *If only people would act differently towards me, I would be happier. If only people understood me or appreciated me or helped me more, life would be good.*

When I get to that place of accepting my mate, appreciating her/him, thinking about all of her/his great qualities, a sense of contentment settles in. I quit looking for other options. I quit wondering if I made a wrong choice. I enjoy our time together, even if it is just riding in the same car, not talking, just being in each other's presence.

**Being content is really a golden place in marriage.**

## The Origin of Discontentment .....

**Adam and Eve** had the entire garden, all of perfection at their finger tips. **Satan enticed them to be dissatisfied, discontent with what they had.** He tempted them to want more. They wanted the one thing that God said that they couldn't have – the fruit of the tree

of the knowledge of good and evil.

Satan really was saying to them, "God is withholding something good from you. He has something good that He doesn't want you to have."

**Satan still tempts me in the same way. Instead of taking stock of**

**what I do have, of the abundance of what God has given me, I start wanting more possessions or different experiences.**

**Since the fall, mankind has become restless.** He is not satisfied with what he has. He wants what he does not have - the opposite of contentment.