

Series: Swimming in the Cultural Sea
Message: Wealth and Affluence – March 14, 2021

Lies the culture tells us about wealth and affluence

1. You are what you own, your wealth and possessions define who you are
2. Wealth provides well-being and security
3. Do what you have to gather wealth

Questions and considerations:

- Consider/Discuss the degree to which our culture defines us by what we possess
- Question: In what ways does our culture tell us that wealth provides security? What are we told that wealth protects us from?

Danger: Read I Timothy 6:9-10 and consider the strong warning that it provides.

- How dangerous is it to “wander away from the faith”?

Truths/Protections from God:

1. Even in affluence your life does not consist of your possessions: **Luke 12:15**
2. Wealth is uncertain and unreliable **Proverbs 23:4-5**
3. God is our faithful provider **Hebrews 13:5-6**

Questions and considerations:

- Consider/discuss the significance of Jesus statement that your life does not consist of your possessions.
- Question: Have you seen examples of the uncertainty of accumulated wealth?
- Consider/discuss the promise God makes in Hebrews 13.
 - What might make it difficult to believe or remember that? How can we consistently remember the truth of that statement?

I Timothy 6:6-8 But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and[c] we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.

I Timothy 6:18-19 They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 19 thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

Action

1. Recognize greed when it appears **Luke 12:15**
2. Cultivate contentment **I Timothy 6:6-8**
3. Let your thinking be renewed about wealth and possessions **I Timothy 6:17**
4. Practice generosity **I Timothy 6:18-19**

Questions and considerations:

- Consider/discuss the warning signs of greed in your thinking
- Consider/discuss ways that you have or could cultivate contentment.
 - What are some of the benefits of contentment?
- Question: In what ways are challenged to be generous with your time and/or resources?