Healthy Churches

**Avoid Worldliness**

They are content with the Lord’s provision

(1 Timothy 6:3-10)

*3If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, 4he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, 5and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain. 6But godliness with contentment is great gain, 7for we brought nothing into the world, and[*[*c*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+tim+6&version=ESV#fen-ESV-29779c)*] we cannot take anything out of the world. 8But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. 9But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. (ESV)*

*Healthy Churches*

* Guard the gospel message (1)
* Pray (2)
* Develop godly leaders (3)
* Discern truth from error (4)
* Honor each other (5)

***Philippians 4:11***

*“Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.”*

***Romans 8:5-6***

*5For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.*

*Beware of teachers who are not content with godliness* (6:3-5)

* They offer an alternate perspective on Christ (v. 3)

**Ideas about Jesus through the centuries**

Emphasize Jesus’ divinity

 Mystical, detached

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Emphasize Jesus’ humanity

Social justice

 Political revolutionary

* They have a sick desire for debate (v. 4a)
* They create division in the church (vs. 4b-5)

*Discover contentment in the Lord* (6:6-10)

***2 Corinthians 12:8-9***

*8Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. 9But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

* Earthly wealth is not eternal (v.7)

***Hebrews 13:5***

*Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.*

* Contentment is possible in simplicity (v. 8)
* Discontentment with present provision is dangerous (vs. 9-10)

It entraps

It leads to other evil desires

“Avarice leads to selfishness, cheating, fraud, perjury and robbery, to envy, quarrelling and hatred, to violence and even murder. Greed lies behind marriages of convenience, perversions of justice, drug-pushing, pornography sales, blackmail, the exploitation of the weak, the neglect of good causes, and the betrayal of friends.”

**John Stott**

It can ruin our lives

It can lead us astray from God