

Lesson 13
Hindrances to Godliness

Review:

In light of all that you have already studied and learned about godliness give me a concise and biblical definition of godliness. I encourage you to look the word up in a dictionary if you are not sure what it means.

Look back over your notes and reread these verses as you meditate on the reality of godliness (1 Tim 4:6-8; 6:3-7; 6:11; 2 Tim 3:5; Titus 1:1; 2 Pet 1:3-7; 3:11).

Now, read this passage again (1 Tim 4:6-8) and the surrounding context and explain one the hindrances to godliness that you must guard against. Hint: it might be helpful to consider the words “train” in this passage.

Discussion Questions:

1. Consider what the false teachers do in 1 Tim 6:3-4 and you will see a major hindrance to godliness. Give a specific step you are taking to combat that hindrance to godliness in your own life. I suggest you read James 1:19-25 and answer these questions:

- What is the one main theme in these verses and how is that connected to one of the major hindrances in pursuing godliness?

- What does verse 19-21 deal with and how does that help combat this hindrance? Look intently at verse 21 and consider what it means to receive the word with meekness?

- Now look at verses 22-25 and what is the one main theme of this section? What does it mean to “persevere” in verse 25 and how does that help combat the hindrance?

2. There is another major hindrance to godliness that inundates all of our lives but it is rarely considered in the pursuit of Christ likeness. Read 1 Tim 6:6-8 and the surrounding context and explain another road block to godliness which you must face.

What were the false teachers thinking when Paul says they thought that godliness **was a means for gain** (1 Tim 6:3-5)?

Stop and consider how there is a reality of false godliness that is simply external and how that kind of godliness is often found in the church (2 Tim 3:5)!

What does Paul say to do with that kind of person in 2 Tim 3:5?

Can you think of any examples of simply external godliness in the New Testament? Hint: Look up Acts 5:1-11 and Mt 23:1-7 as you consider the dangers of having a godliness that is simply external.

How does James 1:19-25 help combat this problem as well?

Now, go back to the road block of discontentment found in 1 Tim 6:6-8 as you wrestle with these questions...

- What does Paul mean by “godliness with contentment” and what does the word contentment in this context mean? Hint: Read Phil 4:11-13,19 and consider what Paul means by contentment. Be careful with Phil 4:13!

- Now read 2 Cor 3:5 and 9:8 and see if you can see what connects these passages. Hint: The word that is repeated multiple times in these two passages is that same word used in Phil 4:11-13.
- How does this impact your understanding of contentment?
- Read 2 Cor 12:9 and Heb 13:5 and consider where your contentment must come from and where you must continually focus (Rom 5:1-11; 2 Cor 4:16-18) if you're ever going to have godliness with contentment.
- Can you think of any biblical examples where a lack of contentment led people into a place of ungodliness? Consider Gen 3:1-6; Ex 32:1-6; Josh 7:20-21; 2 Kings 5:19-27.
- Is this a problem in the contemporary church and our lives? Explain!!!

Memory Verse: Proverbs 23:17