



Chances are pretty good that at some point in your life, you found SATISFACTION. But...when you take a look around, you realized someone else has something a little bit better than what you have, and you're like drooling for what they have. Thus, you found yourself a little bit miserable now. The fastest way to kill something special is to compare it to something else. Where COMPARISON begins, CONTENTMENT ends.

2 Corinthians 10:12-18 - "12 Not that we dare to classify or compare ourselves with some of those who are commending themselves. But when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another, they are without understanding. 13 But we will not boast beyond limits, but will boast only with regard to the area of influence God assigned to us, to reach even to you. 14 For we are not overextending ourselves, as though we did not reach you. For we were the first to come all the way to you with the gospel of Christ. 15 We do not boast beyond limit in the labors of others. But our hope is that as your faith increases, our area of influence among you may be greatly enlarged, 16 so that we may preach the gospel in lands beyond you, without boasting of work already done in another's area of influence. 17 "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord." 18 For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends" (ESV)

COMPARISON MAKES US IGNORANT

Comparisons leads us to have two opposite negative feelings: Comparison either makes you feel SUPERIOR or INFERIOR. Neither of these honors God. It makes you feel BETTER than or LESS than the other person. Neither of these two results in honoring God.

John 21:18-22 - "18 Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." 19 Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!" 20 **Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them.** (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is going to betray you?") 21 When Peter saw him, he asked, "Lord, what about him?" 22 Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me." (NIV)

Comparison is a very bad sickness that we often deal with in our life. We have to understand that we cannot faithfully follow Jesus if we're always comparing ourselves to somebody else. Our sinful nature takes us away from the heart of God toward ourselves. We are trying to find some external victories to satisfy internal longings. There is no external accomplishment, blessing, relationship, amount of money, or material stuff, that would ever quench our inner spiritual longing.

COMPARISON CAUSES US RESENTMENT

We must understand that our abilities, riches, looks, spouse, children are all gifts of God. Comparing possessions causes envy. Comparing our problems causes self-pity and resentment. Comparing yourself to others is missing what God has for your life. Apostle Paul calls it stupidity. Don't let someone else dictate your life. When you compare yourself to others, you allow them to dictate your pace in life, your happiness, and your satisfaction. Don't compare your dreams and vision to what someone else has or has not. Get the approval of God not of men. Let Jesus Christ be our model and boss. When we have Jesus as our model and boss, when we fall short, we can hold on with the grace of God. Let us do our best in following the IMAGE of GOD and NOT of MEN.

COMPARISON DIMINISHES OUR WORTH

There's never an external answer that would ever satisfy and meet that internal need. This is why we have to answer this very important question and we have to get it right or we will be miserable and dissatisfied for the rest of our life. The question is this: Who or what is going to define my worth?

If you're a Christian, you can probably guess where I'm going with this. If your answer is anything besides Jesus, you are running a race that you will never ever win. Only Jesus defines our worth.

If what defines your worth is anything besides Christ, you are running a race that you will never ever win. Hebrews 12:1b-2a - "1...And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

(NIV)." What do we do? We run the race that's marked out for us. We stay in our lane, we fulfill our purpose, we do what we're created to do, and we keep our eyes focused on Jesus. If you have tried track and field, you know what I'm talking about. The fastest way to lose the race is to look at others. To win, never ever look to the side, you just keep your eyes on the finish line. You keep your eyes on the prize. You keep your eyes on Jesus. You run with perseverance. You stay in your lane. You run your race.



- 1.) Do you often compare yourself or your life with others, why?
- 2.) When you compare, what is the result of comparing to your life?
- 3.) Do you believed you are greatly blessed, share why?

Pray for each other in your group.