

Advice from a Quaker

Leaning on his fence one day, a devout Quaker was watching a new neighbor move in next door. After all kinds of modern appliances, electronic gadgets, and plush furnishings had been carried in, the onlooker called over, "If you find you're lacking anything, neighbor, let me know, and I'll show you how to live without it."

I plead guilty to having many more "things" than I need or deserve. Perhaps most of us are in that category, because we are a blessed people. Sometimes, however, folks are not happy unless they are grasping for other material gain; "keeping up with the Joneses" has become a watchword in their lives.

If chronic dissatisfaction plagues your life, ask yourself these simple questions:

- First, and most importantly, is Jesus Christ at the center of all my endeavors?
- Am I confusing my need with my wants?
- Can I be happy with less?

Economic pressures may be an opportunity for some of us to restructure our lives.

Practicing self-discipline in our spending could allow us to give more to the church or to a favorite charity or to someone who is down and out amidst the financial challenges of today.

We may actually develop a simpler lifestyle that proves more satisfying than when we had more and worried more.

Remember: Contentment is not found in having everything, but in being satisfied with everything you have.

--Beecher Hunter