

The CGI Life

Part One - Contentment Generated Image

Acts 5:1-11

But there was a certain man named Ananias who, with his wife, Sapphira, sold some property.

2 He brought part of the money to the apostles, claiming it was the full amount. With his wife's consent, he kept the rest.

3 Then Peter said, "Ananias, why have you let Satan fill your heart? You lied to the Holy Spirit, and you kept some of the money for yourself.

4 The property was yours to sell or not sell, as you wished. And after selling it, the money was also yours to give away. How could you do a thing like this? You weren't lying to us but to God!"

5 As soon as Ananias heard these words, he fell to the floor and died. Everyone who heard about it was terrified.

6 Then some young men got up, wrapped him in a sheet, and took him out and buried him.

7 About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.

8 Peter asked her, "Was this the price you and your husband received for your land?" "Yes," she replied, "that was the price."

9 And Peter said, "How could the two of you even think of conspiring to test the Spirit of the Lord like this? The young men who buried your husband are just outside the door, and they will carry you out, too."

10 Instantly, she fell to the floor and died. When the young men came in and saw that she was dead, they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

11 Great fear gripped the entire church and everyone else who heard what had happened.

□ **The CGI life is a lie - to ourselves, to God and to others.**

Vs. 4

"How could you do a thing like this? You weren't lying to us but to God!"

John 14:6

Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

John 8:44

For you are the children of your father the devil... When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.

□ **God cannot bless who we pretend to be.**

Amos 5:21-23

"I hate all your show and pretense - the hypocrisy of your religious festivals and solemn assemblies.

22 I will not accept your burnt offerings and grain offerings. I won't even notice all your choice peace offerings.

23 Away with your noisy hymns of praise! I will not listen to the music of your harps.

☐ **The CGI life demonstrates discontentment with who God has made us.**

Romans 9:20

Who are you, a mere human being, to argue with God? Should the thing that was created say to the one who created it, “Why have you made me like this?”

Psalms 139:14-16

I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Marvelous are Your works, and I know this very well.

15 My frame was not hidden from You when I was made in secret, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

16 Your eyes saw my unformed body; all my days were written in Your book and ordained for me before one of them came to be.

☐ **Being real is just as important as being right.**

Matthew 15:8-9

“These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.”

Romans 8:29

...because those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son...

How Do We Do Away with the CGI Life?

1. Get honest with yourself.

Proverbs 12:22

Lips that lie are disgusting to the LORD, but honest people are his delight.

2. Get honest with God.

1 John 1:9

But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

3. Get honest with others.

James 5:16

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

4. Give God something to bless.

Luke 18:9-14

Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else:

10 “Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector.

11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: ‘I thank you, God, that I am not like other people - cheaters, sinners, adulterers. I’m certainly not like that tax collector!

12 I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.’

13 “But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, ‘O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.’

14 I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

5. Let contentment generate your image.**1 Timothy 6:6**

Of course, godliness with contentment is great gain.