

Series "Ten Commandments"
"Being Content"
Exodus 20:17
Part-11

The first 9 commandments deal with the actions of a person, but this 10th Commandment encompasses all of them and deals with the inner life that only God can see, the attitude of the heart.

Commandment #10 (Attitude), Exodus 20:17.

1. What The Commandment Teaches

2. How We Covet

3. Why We Covet

4. God's Solution To Coveting

1. What The Commandment Teaches:

Exodus 20:17

"Covet" – The Hebrew word means "desire or to desire earnestly."

What could possibly be wrong with such a word? There are things that we are supposed to desire in this life. Without desires, no one would have any ambition!

We should covet the highest possibilities of being all that Jesus desires for us to be: 1 Corinthians 14:39 (KJV).

"covet" – the word also means "an inordinate desire." The O.T. translated into Greek means, "grasping for more, lust, passionate longing." Literally "to pant after, to fix the desire upon, to lust after, the desire to have more." It is "an all-encompassing compulsion to possess something."

Literally, "Covetousness is God-given desires gone wrong."

This Commandment forbids our desiring that which we have no right to: It belongs to another; God has not planned for us to have it, Matthew 6:24.

Paul quotes this 10th Commandment in the New Testament, Romans 7:7.

Exodus 20:17 – "You shall not covet your neighbor's house;" – Possessions.

"you shall not covet your neighbor's wife or his male servant or his female servant" – Persons.

“or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor.” – Possessions, all-inclusive, any, and all things.

Deuteronomy 5:21

Proverbs 12:4

“Covet” means “I think of myself and what I get, versus God having me,” Matthew 16:24.

This Commandment differs in that the first 9 Commandments forbid sinful Action as this Commandment forbids A State of Mind Attitude.

“With Covetousness, no matter how much one has, it is never enough, they are always discontented.

Acts 20:35 – “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

To Covet Is A Sin: Psalms 10:3.

Proverbs 21:26

1 Corinthians 6:9-10

Ephesians 5:5

2. How We Covet:

5 Areas In Which We Covet:

- 1. Possessions: Exodus 20:17** – “You shall not covet your neighbor's house;”

Example of Lot – Genesis 13:10-11.

Example of Achan – Joshua 7:21.

Example of Gehazi – 2 Kings 5:20.

Jesus was teaching on the Holy Spirit when He is interrupted by a man in the crowd, Luke 12:13-21.

- 2. People: Exodus 20:17** – “shall not covet your neighbor's wife or his male servant or his female servant”

David coveted Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah – 2 Samuel 11.

3. Positions: Matthew 23:5-7

Jesus saw it among His own disciples, Luke 22:24-27 (Which was the greatest).

Haman in the Book of Esther.

Covetousness Disguised As Spirituality: This is an insidious form of sin, Philippians 1:12-19.

John the Baptist's disciples warned John about Jesus being more popular – John 3:26.

4. Accomplishments: A person's education, professional accomplishments.

5. Wealth: 1 Timothy 6:3-12.

Covetousness Replaces Genuine Love: Major flaw.

Colossians 3:5 – “and greed, which amounts to idolatry.” – It is idolatry.

3. Why We Covet:

We Fail To Seek The Heavenly: Colossians 3:1.

Our Minds Are Not On God's Priorities: Colossians 3:2.

Set your mind on the things above; “the thoughts and attention need to be continually directed towards this goal of the things above.” A persons actions are a result of his thinking!

“You must not only seek heaven; you must think heaven!”

God's Truth Is Priceless – Psalm 19:10.

This Commandment reveals our inability to govern ourselves apart from God. Our nature is to covet that which is not rightfully ours.

4. God's Solution To Coveting: The alternative to the covetous life is the content life.

Contentment – it is not passive, it is not the absence of ambition, it is not laziness, it is a condition of the heart. One can be rich and content, poor and content, and in the middle and be content.

Philippians 4:11-12

Contentment – This contentment is that which comes from knowing and loving God; Does not come from adding to our possessions but from taking away from our passions.

We can have Jesus living inside of us. That is contentment, Hebrews 13:5.

The life of contentment is filled with the knowledge of how good God really has been.

Job 1:21

1 Corinthians 12:26

Positive – If we have Jesus, we have everything we need and more than what we deserve.

Application:

1. If We Love We Will Not Covet – 1 Corinthians 13:4.
2. We Are To Seek His Kingdom – Matthew 6:33.
3. We Are To Feast On Jesus – John 6:35.
4. We Find Contentment In Jesus – John 4:14.