

Series: Honoring God in the 10 Commandments

Title: A Desire Worth Controlling

Text: (Ex 20:17)(Deut 5:21)

(Eph 5:20) *Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;*

The spirit of Covetousness says that:

“I have to have THAT thing to be happy.”

This is not News to us or Uncommon to us in Scripture.

(Gen 3) Eve Coveted Knowledge.

(Gen 4) Cain Coveted Abel’s Favor with God.

(Gen 13) Lot Coveted the Wealth of Sodom.

(Joshua 7) Achan Coveted Gold & New Clothes

(2 Sam 11) David Coveted Uriah’s Wife.

(1 Kings 12) Rehoboam coveted People’s Respect

(1 Kings 21) Ahab Coveted Naboth’s Vinyard.

(John 12) Judas Coveted \$\$ & holdout Jesus.

(Acts 5) Ananias & Saphira coveted the praise of men.

(2 Tim 4) Demas Coveted the World.

This is Not Uncommon for us in the World around us.

(1 Cor 5:10)

“To the man to whom little is not enough, Nothing is enough”

Instead of being Humbly Grateful, we are Grumbly Hateful.

Covetousness has an appetite that is never Satisfied.

The World says: (1 Jn 2:15-16) Love Things, Use People, Work for yourself, Chase your dreams.

Jesus tried to illustrate this when He was presented a problem between 2 brother & their Inheritance: (Lk 12:13-21) *Vs 15

The Word says:

(Matt 6:33)

(Matt 6:19-21)

The Word of God says: Love God, Serve People, Work for His Kingdom, Have your needs met.

1 Facet of My Identity is that of a Creature/Created Being

Physically Frail: I have needs, things I can’t live w/o/
Air, Water, Food, Clothing, Shelter, Community.

It is not Wrong to desire these.

Salvation does not make us Passionless Either!

This is not a command against legitimate & lawful desires.
Nothing wrong to want marriage, family, home, career, etc.

It is NOT wrong to want these things Either: (Deut 8:18)

Covetousness is going beyond legitimate needs or passions.

Bible Classify them as inordinate desire or to fulfill my flesh in the areas of ...

To BE: Who I am (Validation) I can’t Be whole w/o it.

To HAVE: Who I am based on What I (Possession).

To CONTROL: Who I am based on what I (Attention)

This Command Is Different Than The Other 9.

It is the Most Penetrating of all Commandments.

B/c it forbids the inward longing/covetous Desire for what belongs to someone else to fulfill our flesh.

The 1st - 9 Comm Dealt With “*What We Do.*”

This Command deals with “*What We Are!*”

Attitude and not Actions.

Desires and not Deeds.

Covetousness Is the Root of all Evil

(1 Tim 6:9-10) *But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*

Covetousness makes us break all the other 9 commandments.

This 10th commandment sums up the other 9.

The reason we choose other Gods is we covet power.

We create Images b/c we covet Control.

We take the name of God in Vain b/c We Covet Authority.

We ignore the Sabbath we covet our time.

We dishonor our parents b/c we covet selfishness.

We kill b/c covet personal Satisfaction.

We Commit Adultery b/c we Covet Pleasure.

We Steal b/c we covet Possessions, desire to have.

We Lie b/c we covet popularity/praise.

10th Comm: *The heart of the matter is a matter of the heart.*

The Royal Law: (James 2:8)

We Love our Neighbor as ourselves when we follow the 10th Commandment: (Ex 20:17)

The Problem of Covetousness: Deceptiveness

(1 Thes 2:5) *nor a cloke of covetousness.*

We Hide in it b/c people can't see our heart:

Some People never recognize this as an actual sin.

We deceive ourselves by classifying ourself as driven, etc.

We all grow up with dreams:

Dreams of how our life would be like as a grown up.

Dreams of being a Dr. Lawyer, firefighter, Police, Soldier.

Do you have a Bucket List:

Own a Suburban, BMW, Motorcycle, Travel.

Has you bucket list changed over the years?

Are you living the life you imagined?

Has things turned out as you thought it would?

(Let Me Read You A Story)

Is this the Life you really wanted?

Is this the life God really intended for you?

Are you the Christian you intended to be 10yrs ago?

Illus: Have you ever heard the saying: “We do what we WANT to do”?

Our lives are a vivid picture of what we ACTUALLY value.

The best way to determine what matters the most to someone is not to hear what they say, but to see how they live by the choices they make regarding their Time, Talent, Treasure.

The things we pursue and give our lives to reveal what we truly value most.

So What type of Christian do you want to be in 10years?

(Phil 2:12) “*Work out your own salvation*” Live it Out Daily!
The Time is now! We need to be living it now!
What is the sum total of your life going to amount to?

So, How do we get the good Life & still be pleasing to God?

The World says: Love Things, Use People, Work for yourself, Chase your dreams.

Jesus tried to illustrate this when He was presented a problem between 2 brother & their Inheritance: (Lk 12:13-21) *Vs 15

We get consumed buying Things we don't need, with Money we don't have, to impress People we don't even Like!

We trade relationships for Careers.

We are chasing our dreams & losing our families.

The Word says: Love God, Serve People, Work for His Kingdom, Have your needs met.

The thing we need to Realize is...

We all are somewhere between the WORD and the World.

Pressures to Be, Do, Have, Achieve.

They assault us everyday through all forms of media.

The point of Media is to develop a desire for their product by developing a small discontent/embarrassment with what you already have.

Illus: GE/LG Commercials.

How many of you have a perfectly good white refrigerator in your kitchen, that you are for some reason embarrassed about?

How many of you are hoping it dies a quick death, so you can justify buying a NEW ONE?

Remember when the Black appliances 1st came out?

Come On Now, Keep Up!

Stainless Steel is the new Black.

We all are somewhere between the WORD and the World.

Where were you 10 years ago?

Where are you now?

Where will you be in 10 years from now?

Paul thought he was doing good at the 10 Comm until he got to the 10th Comm. (Rom 7:7)

This brought Paul under Deep Conviction.

The Problem of Covetousness: It is born in our heart

(Mark 7:21) *Out of the heart of men proceed ...Covetousness.*

All these evils come from within and defiles a man.

See the company Covetousness keeps: (Mark 7:22-23)

... proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22 Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:

The Problem of Covetousness: It is never Satisfied

(Ecc 5:10) *He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity.*

If you want to be miserable.

Think only about what you want.

Think only what would make you happy.
and nothing will be pure to you.

If What I AM is based on What I HAVE, then if I lose what I HAVE, What AM I?

(1 Tim 6:7)

God does not condemn riches, He condemns the desire to have b/c it becomes a god we worship through our effort.

(Matt 6:33)

Covetousness is Idolatry! (Eph 5:5) *nor covetous man, who is an idolater,*

That's Why Covetousness is Idolatry. (Matt 6:21)

Since this is what you need to be Happy, it has taken God's place of importance in our heart.

Covetousness is not a Minor Thing:

Leads to Injustice & Oppression: (Prov 28:20)(Micah 2:2)

Leads to Foolish & Hurtful Lusts: (1 Tim 6:9)

Leads to Emotional Bondage: (1 Cor 6:12) ***but I will not be brought under the power of any.***

Covetousness says: "I cannot be Happy or Whole, without it."

Leads to the Departure of the Faith:

(1 Tim 6:10) **erred from the faith,**

Covetousness also Leads too..

Lying: (2 Kings 5:22-25)

Murder: (Prov 1:18-19)

Thefts: (Joshua 7:21)

Poverty: (Prov 28:22)

Misery: (1 Tim 6:10)

Domestic Affliction: (Prov 15:27)

A sign of the Last Days:(2 Tim 3:2)E

How do We get a hold of this?

Covetousness is a lack of perspective: (Heb 13:5-6)

We Forget that God owns it all.

We Forget that God gave it all to us.

We Forget that God can give us more.

We Forget that God can take it all away.

You can tell what a person values by their choices.

Jesus does some Values Clarification: (Lk 12:22-30)

Vs 22 -23 Is this life all we think about?

Vs 24 God can seem to handle the world around us w/o our worry or help.

How is our needs bigger to fill than theirs?

Vs 25-26 How much control do actually think you have?

Vs 27 God knows what true beauty is.

Vs 28

If God spent that kind of effort on something that only lasts a summer, imagine whats in store for you as an eternal being.

Vs 29-31 **We all are somewhere between the Word & the World, but lets move closer to the WORD!**

The Answer: (Luke 12:30-48)

Love God, Serve People, Work for His Kingdom, Have your needs met.

Vs 30 Trust God's Character

Vs 31 Put God 1st.
Vs 32 Trust God's Promises, what's coming is better!
Vs 33a Change your view of Money! – It's Only a tool!

(Luke 12:33b-34) Invest in Eternal things!
(Hag 1:6-7) **to put it into a bag with holes.**

Vs 35-36 Integrity is your greatest asset!
Vigilance and Faithfulness.

Vs 37-38 Your Master is coming with your reward!
Vs 39-40 We are to be expecting His return & Be Ready!
Vs 41-44 I Love Peter, he is not satisfied w/ the Status Quo
Vs 45-48 We were never meant to live our lives for our
own pleasure or satisfaction.

All of this is not ours.
We are stealing if we act like all of this is ours to do with as
we please.

Life w/o Covetousness, is to be Content: - Jesus is Enough
(Ps 37:16) *A little that a righteous man hath is better than the
riches of many wicked.*

(1 Tim 6:6) *But godliness with contentment is great gain.*
(1 Tim 6:8) *And having food and raiment let us be therewith
content.*

Contented people are those who let go of this world.

They hold everything out to God, palms open and up.
You gave it to me.
I will use it for your glory.
You can have it back when ever you want it!

Our Perspective can make us Covetous or Content:

(Ps 73:25-26)

When I, by faith, realize that God is all I need.
Then you are Rich

(Prov 18:22) Do you have a Spouse?

The Widow thinks your rich!

(Ps 127:3) Do you have children?

The Childless couple thinks you are Rich!

Children don't make rich man poor.

Children make a poor man rich!

You can't take your riches to heaven,

I am taking all 4 of my children to heaven!

(Prov 17:17) Do you have friends.

The Lonely person thinks you are Rich

(Prov 3:13-14) You have the wisdom of God's Word!

The Simple Person thinks you are Rich!

(Phil 4:11) Contentment!

The Discontented person thinks you are Rich or a fool.

Why?

Perspective is the Difference between Covetous & Content.

The Contented man is happy b/c he has all he needs.

(Phil 4:11-13, 19-20)

The Covetous man is never happy b/c he never will have all
he wants.

(Is 48:22) There is no peace to the wicked.

Without a Hope that is steadfast and sure, you have nothing.

So how do we get the Good Life & be Content God's way?

Develop a Spirit of Thankfulness: (Prov 3:1-2)

Children are surrounded by stuff and they want more.
Children have 24/7 access to entertainment & they're bored.
They have all the latest clothes, but have a poor self image.

They have access to more information in 5 min that someone got in a whole year in the 1800's.

Yet they are as dumb as a post.

They are not Thankful.

That is why God will allow us to do without, or wait for our prayers to be answered.

Learn to Love Others more than yourself: (Prov 3:3-4)

Say No to the Flesh

(Col 3:5) *Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry.*

Loving Others is Therapeutic

(Prov 28:16) *The prince that wanteth understanding is also a great oppressor: but he that hateth covetousness shall prolong his days.*

Thank God for blessing others receive.

Why would I feel bad for Him blessing others.

Jealously means you do not love that other person.

Trust in the Lord: (Prov 3:5-6)

You don't trust Him because you Don't Know him.

You and I are made with a God shaped hole in our soul.

You cannot have peace without God.

You cannot have Contentment without the knowledge of God.

We escape the Corruption of Covetousness by trusting God's promises by faith.

(2 Pet 1:4) *having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

Choose, by Faith, to be Thankful: (Prov 3:7-8)

Write down all the blessings you have, & thank God for them.

Can you See? A Blind person thinks your rich.

Can you Stand? A maimed person thinks your rich.

Can you Walk? A Cripple man thinks your rich.

Can you Hear? A Deaf man thinks your rich.

Are you healthy? A Cancer sufferer thinks your rich.

Learn to Give: (Prov 3:9-10)

Our needs met to the point we can meet the needs of others.

"That's Mine"

God gave us everything.

God can give us a while lot more.

God can take away all He has given us.

(Prov 3:11-12) Expect God to correct you if you live below the level of His Blessings.

God does NOT NEED our Stuff.

God does NOT WANT our Stuff.

God wants our Heart:

(Ps 37:4)

Covetousness is problem of the Heart.
Covetousness is an attitude of discontent with God.

Contentment is an attitude of the Heart!
Contentment is a choice of the heart to Truth God's Goodness
regardless of our circumstances.

Is this the Life you really wanted?
Is this the life God really intended for you?
Are you the Christian you intended to be 10yrs ago?

We all are somewhere between the WORD and the World.
What does your lifestyle say about what you really value?

So What type of Christian do you want to be in 10years?
(Phil 2:12) *“Work out your own salvation”*
Live it Out Daily!
The Time is now!
We need to be living it now!
Live your Christianity Out Loud!