

#10 Be Content!

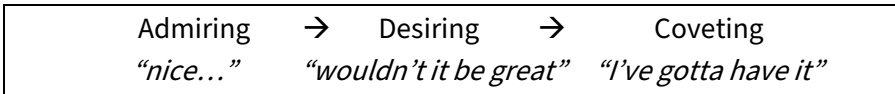
THE 10TH COMMANDMENT

Exodus 20:17 “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”

1. The Command: DON’T COVET!

- A. This command sounds different than the others
- B. This one is unique
- C. This one speaks to the human heart

Definition: the dominating desire to acquire what you don’t have.



Am I Coveting?

- If you’re willing to compromise your integrity to get it...
- If you are unable to rejoice that someone else has it...
- When important priorities get pushed aside in order to get it...
- When acquiring it becomes an obsession...
- If you have to take it from somebody else in order to have it...

The Many Ugly Faces of Covetousness...

GREED: excessive desire for something I don’t have
Ephesians 5:3

JEALOUSY: an obsession to acquire something that someone else has
Romans 13:13

ENVY: displeasure at hearing that someone else has it or is prospering
1 Peter 2:1

Selfish **AMBITION:** unquenchable drive to compete with others in obtaining possessions or position
Philippians 2:3

- D. This one is convicting on a different level
- E. This one points to humanity’s deep need

2. The Complementary Command: BE CONTENT

Hebrews 13:5 Keep your life free from love of money, and **be content with what you have**, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Philippians 4:11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹² I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³ I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

2Corinthians 12:10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

1Timothy 6:8 But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.

Ephesians 5:3 But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.

Colossians 3:5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Luke 12:15 And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”

1Timothy 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

Breaking free...

- a new **awareness** “OK, I see it now”
- a new **honesty** “I’ve been staking my hope and happiness on something other than God, and that’s just foolish idolatry!”
- a new **repentance** “I confess my sin of idolatry and turn away from it now, turning fully to You in faith, and accepting your forgiveness”
- a new **freedom** through release “I give my desires to You”
- a new **permission** “Admiring without acquiring”
- a new **gratefulness** “Thank You for what You DO provide”
- a new **pursuit** “By God’s grace, I will fix my eyes on Jesus”
- a new **satisfaction** “I will be satisfied in seeking Your face”

“Law doesn’t have the ability to melt the human heart.
Only a Story can do that.”