

"YOU SHALL NOT COVET"

TEXT: Ex. 20:17.

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Many think that the final commandment is the most difficult of all.
- B. This commandment deals with your inner most thoughts.
- C. This is how you view what others have.
- D. The other commandments dealt with visible acts.
- E. This one with the control of your desires.
- F. Is all coveting wrong? (yes and no).
 - 1. There are 3 Greek words for covet.
 - 2. Some kind of "coveting" is good.
 - a. 1 Cor. 12:31.
 - b. 1 Cor. 14:39.
 - c. Better off "desire earnestly."
 - 3. The kind of coveting used here is never used in a good sense.
- G. It is not wrong to desire a house, wife, car, etc.
- H. Covetousness defined: "Inordinate desire, greed, to grasp for more, to wish enviously, to lust or long after, to set one's heart on, to want that which is not right, passionate craving, to place the secular above the spiritual, the love of money, and to put gain above God.
- I. Catholics divide this commandment into two.
 - 1. They still get 10.
 - 2. Drop the one on images.

BODY:

I. SOME SCRIPTURES ON COVETOUSNESS.

A. Ex. 18:21. **"Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness;**

B. Prov. 28:16 ". . . but he that hateth covetousness shall prolong his days."

C. Lk. 12:15 **"Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist**

D. Rom. 1:29, 32.

E. Eph. 5:5.

F. Col. 3:5.

G. 1 Tim. 3:3 Elders not to be Covetous.

H. Heb. 13:5.

I. 2 Pet. 2:14.

J. 1 Jn. 2:15-17 **"Do not love the world or the things that are in the world..."**.

II. COVETOUSNESS-ROOT OF OTHER SINS.

A. Not only is it wrong it leads to other sins- 1 Tim. 6:10.

B. Eve. Gen. 3:6.

C. Achan- Josh. 7:21.

D. David- 2 Sam. 11:3-4.

E. Ahab- 1 Kings 21:2.

F. Gehazi- 2 Kings 5:22.

G. Judas.

1. Jn. 12:6.

2. Matt. 27:3-5.

H. Break all other commandments by breaking this one.

1. Worship-money.

2. Greed-is idol worship.

3. False swearing to get money.

4. Keep Sabbath-work to get more.

5. Honor Father and Mother-covet father's throne.

6. Murder-for money.

7. Adultery-wanting an other's wife.

8. Steal-wanting an other's goods.

9. Lying-to get gain.

III. HOW CAN I KNOW IF I AM COVETOUS?

A. Your thoughts.

1. Are you always thinking about this world, house, job.

2. Vacation, hobbies, etc.

3. Do you ever think of God, Bible, Church, your soul, etc.

4. Prov. 23:7 "For as he thinketh in his heart so is he ..."

5. Jas. 4:4.

B. Your conversation.

1. What are you always talking about, worldly or godly?

2. Matt. 12:34.

C. Are you exchanging soul for material goods.

1. If so you are losing- Lk. 12:16-21.
2. Matt. 16:26.

D. Your heart.

1. Is your heart so set on this world's goods that you will do anything to obtain your heart's desire?
2. Those who work on Sunday when they don't have to.
3. Mk. 7:20-23.

IV. THE CONSEQUENCES OF LEADING A COVETOUS LIFE.

A. Adam/Eve- Gen. 3.

1. Sin, loss of Eden.
2. Death.

B. Achan-Josh 7.

1. Defeat to Israel.
2. Death.

C. David- 2 Sam. 11.

1. Adultery-murder.
2. Suffer-rest of his life.

D. Judas-Matt. 27:

1. Suicide.
2. Loss of Soul.

E. Rich Farmer- Lk. 12:

1. Loss of Goods.

2. Loss of Soul.

F. James 4:2.

G. 1 Cor. 6:9-10.

V. HOW TO OVERCOME COVETOUSNESS.

A. Set our love priorities straight- Matt. 22:37-39.

B. Work on the heart.

1. Mk. 7:20-23.

2. Phil. 2:5.

3. 2 Cor. 10:5.

4. Prov. 23:7 "As a man thinketh in his heart so is he."

C. Put God's kingdom first.

1. Matt. 6:33 "Seek ye first...".

2. The spiritual must be elevated over the material.

D. Adopt the right philosophy of life.

1. Job. 1:21 ". . . naked came I out of my mother's womb and naked shall I return thither. . ."

2. 1 Tim. 6:6-10.

CONCLUSION:

A. We are not to covet, people, places and things which belong to another.

B. Anything that takes away my taste for the Bible, anything that cramps my prayer life or makes my Christian work difficult is wrong for me.

C. Get rid of all that stands between self and God.