

10 Do Not Covet

Exodus 20:17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that *is* your neighbor's."

- Social Media is designed to promote coveting.
- Advertising is meant to promote coveting (Demoralize thy Neighbor)

What is the Command?

Coveting is specifically desiring what another person has.

- You can be inspired by someone. But not jealous of someone.

Contentment is the opposite of covetous

2008 – Florida Gators win the National Title in football. Tim Tebow wins the Heisman Trophy. The players come on the field and Tebow is wearing Phil 4:13 on his eye black.

What is that verse about?

Philippians 4:11-13 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: ¹² I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. ¹³ I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

- Is it possible to be content when it feels like life is not going your way?
- Biblical contentment is being joyful, at peace and grateful in your present state.

Contentment is not about not desiring something

- **1 Timothy 3:1** This *is* a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.

- **Luke 22:15** Then He said to them, “With *fervent* desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;
- Contentedness is not fake satisfaction.
- Dreaming of a better future is not lack of contentment.
- Ambition is not a sin

What does this command reveal about God?

God is the only One who can satisfy us

- **Psalm 73:25-26** Whom have I in heaven *but You?* And *there is* none upon earth *that* I desire besides You. ²⁶ My flesh and my heart fail; *But God is* the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

We will never be fully satisfied until heaven. We were created for that and this world will never satisfy.

- **Philippians 3:18-20** For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ: ¹⁹ whose end *is* destruction, whose god *is their* belly, and *whose glory is* in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things. ²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ
- See the contrast in this verse:
 - Whose god is their belly – they can never have enough
 - Glory in shame – sexual impurity
 - Set their minds on earthly things – greed and power
 - BUT our citizenship is in heaven – we eagerly await Jesus.
 - He satisfies.

What does the command reveal about us?

When we stop looking at and listening to God, we will begin to lust after other things.

- **Genesis 3:1-3** Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"
² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³ but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God has said, "You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' "
- **Genesis 3:6** So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.
 - God gave them everything they needed.
 - His supply was perfect.
 - They were literally in paradise, walking with God, but when they listened to the enemy...

The world will try to entice us

- **1 John 2:15-17** Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

The world tells us to follow our hearts

- **Jeremiah 17:9** "The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?"

Breaking this commandment will almost always lead to breaking other laws from God

- **David and Bathsheba**
- David isn't about His business, instead he is doing his own thing

- David sees Bathsheba bathing, he desires her - covet
- David sleeps with her – Adultery
- David tries to set Uriah up – False report
- David then has Uriah killed – Murder
- David takes her as his wife – Steals (Nathan points that out)
- God says David Despised Him – Worship only God

What are God's Promises?

That He can satisfy us. He is sufficient.

- **1 Timothy 6:6-10** Now godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. ⁸ And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. ⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.
- When we live this life with holiness and contentedness that is great gain.
 - Great Gain = Mega Acquisitions.
 - Understanding that Spiritual gains mean way more than material gains
 - **Mark 8:36** For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?
- Is it possible to be content with only what we need?
- Desiring riches is a trap. Desiring riches leads to all forms of evil.
- Loving money will inevitably destroy us.

James 4:1-4 Where do wars and fights *come* from among you? Do *they* not *come* from your *desires for* pleasure that war in your members? ² You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures. ⁴

Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

- Let's do the opposite. Love God more than the world.
- Ask, that you may have your needs, and to be able to bless and help others.
- Avoid lust. Lust for other people, lust for objects, lust for power.

How to do this:

Colossians 3:1-4 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

- Since you are saved, seek the kingdom of heaven. Be mindful of the spiritual.
- Set your eyes on the Spiritual side of life – looking at Jesus. Stop looking at the world and what others may have.
 - This may mean a shift in what we spend our time looking at. Is social media creating discontentedness? Drop it.
 - Tv? Music? Whatever. Look at the Kingdom of God more than the world.
 - What do our conversations revolve around?
- You died, and your life is hidden with Christ. You are dead, separated from this world. You are alive, connected to, Christ in the heavenlies.
- Look forward to heaven. Dream of heaven. Pray for heaven to come. Pray for the return of Christ.