

### 3. Remember that Jesus will give me the strength to handle the trials of prosperity and the trials of poverty.

*Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me. Philippians 4:11–13 (ESV)*

### 4. Remember that no matter what people do to me they can not thwart God's good plan for me.

*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." So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?" Hebrews 13:5–6 (ESV)*

#### Digging Deeper Sermon Study

1. If someone gave you \$50,000, what would you buy?
2. What is the difference between coveting and desiring?
3. How does coveting change the way we think in our mind? How does coveting change the choices we make in our life?
4. **Read Luke 12:15.** What currently consumes your thoughts and desires? How are you influenced by the appearance of other's lives, especially on social media and the Internet?
5. **Read James 1:14-15 and 2 Corinthians 10:5.** God doesn't just care about our deeds. He cares about our thoughts. Why do James and Paul say guarding out thought life is essential to the Christian life?
6. **Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10.** What does Paul say is worth more than riches? How does that change the way you think about what is important?
7. In what aspects of your life do you find the most discontent? If God's love for us through Jesus is the source of our contentment, what part of your future in Jesus do you find hardest to believe? Why?



## Command 10 – Do Not Covet

August 5, 2018

*"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." Exodus 20:17 (ESV)*

### 1. What does it mean to covet?

#### 1. The Hebrew word for covet is sometimes used in positive ways.

*As an apple tree among the trees of the forest, so is my beloved among the young men. With great delight I sat in his shadow,... Song of Solomon 2:3 (ESV)*

*the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Psalm 19:9–10 (ESV)*

#### 2. The Hebrew word for covet can also be used to speak of sinful desires.

*Do not desire her beauty in your heart, and do not let her capture you with her eyelashes; Proverbs 6:25 (ESV)*

**Coveting** is refusing to be content with the good gifts God provided for my life. It is fixating on what God says is off limits or fixating on what God provided for someone else instead of being grateful for what God provided for me.

**Coveting** is wanting what I want for me instead of wanting what God wants for me.

### 3. How is the tenth commandment different?

1. This commandment starts with internal thoughts, not external actions.

*We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ..., 2 Corinthians 10:5 (ESV)*

2. This commandment is unprecedented in other moral codes.

## 2. Why does God tell us to avoid coveting?

1. Coveting is where other sins begin.

*So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Genesis 3:6 (ESV)*

2. Coveting leads us away from the kingdom of God.

*For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Ephesians 5:5 (ESV)*

3. Coveting leads to debt.

*"Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." Luke 12:15 (ESV)*

4. Coveting leads to broken relationships.

*What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. James 4:1–2 (ESV)*

*Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Romans 12:15 (ESV)*

5. Coveting comes from pride.

### 3. How does coveting lead to sin?

*But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. James 1:14–15 (ESV)*

## A Case Study of Naboth and Ahab

*The inheritance of the people of Israel shall not be transferred from one tribe to another, for every one of the people of Israel shall hold on to the inheritance of the tribe of his fathers. Numbers 36:7 (ESV)*

### 4. How can I replace my coveting with contentment?

1. Remember that if I need something to accomplish God's will for my life, God will always provide it.

2. Remembering my underserved eternity through Jesus replaces coveting with contentment.

*For I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. For they have no pangs until death; their bodies are fat and sleek. They are not in trouble as others are; they are not stricken like the rest of mankind. Therefore pride is their necklace; violence covers them as a garment. Their eyes swell out through fatness; their hearts overflow with follies. Psalm 73:3–7 (ESV)*

*But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task, until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end. Psalm 73:16–17 (ESV)*