

## The Tenth Commandment

**Read:** Exodus 20:17

**Main idea:** God's commands for us to love Him and others culminate in a response to His sovereignty with worship, trust and contentment in His provisions for us.

**Key Verses:** "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." (20:17 ESV)

### Key Principles:

- Coveting is the act of setting your desires on something or someone in a way that you devise a plan to accomplish the fulfillment of that desire if the opportunity arises.
- Our desires should be to worship, love and trust God above everything that this world offers.
- When we covet something it causes us to make really bad decisions to obtain it, but even when we get it we are never satisfied.
- The only thing that truly satisfies us is to find contentment in loving, worshiping and serving the God who made us for His glory.
- If we choose to chase after the things of this world, then eventually we realize that we can never be satisfied and we become bitter and cynical.
- Jesus gives us the secret to contentment in Matthew 10:39.

### Discussion:

1. Have you ever desired something so much that you made yourself sick? Maybe sick with worry that you will never obtain it? Why was it so important?
2. What happens if you seek after and obtain everything that you covet in this world? How will affect your life? What about your eternity?
3. What happens if you never obtain any of the things you covet in this world? Can you still have abundant life? How will it affect your eternity?
4. How does focusing on loving God and loving others help us to find contentment in Christ? How does that affect our Christian witness?
5. Take a moment to reread the ten commandments. What is the purpose of the law? Why is it important for us to remember that we are sinners?
6. Read Exodus 20:18-21. Why did Israel respond this way after God gave them the law? What does that tell us about how we should respond?

### Prayer:

- Pray that we would remember to love God and love others the way God desires.
- Pray:
  - That we would find our contentment in loving, worshiping and trusting God.
  - That we would see people and possessions as blessings not achievements.
  - That we would remember that Christ stands between us and the wrath of God.

## **X: The Sanctity of Motives**

Exodus 20:17

**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.*

### **I. What does it mean to covet?**

1. It begins with an inward attitude. 1 Timothy 6:10
2. It continues with an outward behavior. Joshua 7:20-21

### **II. What sins are prohibited?**

1. Don't desire the possessions of others. James 4:2
2. Don't be discontent with your life. Luke 3:14
3. Don't envy the lives of others. Ecclesiastes 4:4

### **III. What duties are required?**

1. Be content. Hebrews 13:5
2. Covet the spiritual gifts. 1 Corinthians 12:31

New Sermon Series - "Misquoted"

NEXT WEEK:

**God Helps Those Who Help Themselves**

1 Peter 1:13-21