

Exodus #63

The Moral Law

Lesson #15

“No Coveting” – Part I

Exodus 20:17

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“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 belongs to your neighbor.”

Life, consisting of the
abundance of our possessions,
is where we eat, sleep, and live.

Mark 7:21-22

“²¹ For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, ²² deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness.”

I Corinthians 6:9-10

“⁹ Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.”

Ephesians 5:5

“⁵ For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.”

Colossians 3:5

“⁵ Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.”

Thomas Watson:

“As a ferryman takes in so many passengers to increase his fare, that he sinks his boat; so a covetous man takes in so much gold to increase his estate, that he drowns himself in perdition.”

John MacKay calls it “a
consuming desire to possess
in a wrong way something
belonging to another,”

Thomas Watson defined it as an
“insatiable desire of getting the
world.”

PLEONEXIA

To have, in a bad sense, an insatiable desire for getting the world.

PHILARGUNOS

Money loving, an inordinate love of the world.

A person is covetous when he not only pursues acquiring things righteously, or unrighteously, but also desires things inordinately.

Answer: The tenth commandment requires full contentment with our own conditions, with a right and charitable frame of spirit toward our neighbor, and all that is his.

Answer: The tenth commandment forbids all discontentment with our own estate, envying or grieving at the good of our neighbor and all inordinate motions and affections to any thing that is his.

“When a man’s thoughts are
wholly taken up with the
world.”

“A man may be said to be given to covetousness when he takes more pains in getting earthly things than for getting heaven.”

“A man is covetous
when all his discourse
is about the world.”

“A man is given to covetousness when he so sets his heart upon worldly things that for the love of them, he will part with the heavenly; for the wedge of gold, he will part with the pearl of great price.”

“A man is given to
covetousness when he
overloads himself with
worldly business.”

I Timothy 6:6-8

“⁶ But godliness {actually} is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment. ⁷ For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. ⁸ And if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.”

Psalm 23

“The Lord is my shepherd,
I shall not want.”

Hebrews 13:5-6

“⁵ Let your character be free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, ‘I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,’ ⁶ so that we confidently say, ‘The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What shall man do to me?’”

**The root of
covetousness is distrust
of God's provision.**

**We must face denial
and realize that what we
covet will not satisfy us.**

**The remedy for
covetousness is to covet
spiritual things more.**

**The fourth part of the
remedy is to pray for
a heavenly mind.**

**Remember the call to
glorification and
enjoyment.**