

Commandment #10 CONTENTMENT NOT COVETEOUSNESS

You shall not covet. Exodus 20:17 James 4:1-10

Today we look at the last commandment **YOU SHALL NOT COVET.**

It is different than the other nine.

It deals with our inward attitudes, thoughts and desires,

It explores our motivation.

Jesus warns us **Luke 12:15**“**Beware of covetousness; for a man’s life consists not in the abundance of the things which he possesses.**”

A father was walking down the street with two small boys, each of them crying very loudly. A neighbor asked the man what was wrong. "The same thing that is wrong with the whole world," the man replied. "I've got three pieces of candy, and they each want two!"

Covetousness wants what someone else has.

Covetousness is any unreasonable desire for what we do not possess.

It distracts us and shifts our focus from content to discontent.

St. Augustine’s Confession says: “You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.”

This law was so extensive we cannot measure it,
it is so spiritual we cannot evade it,
it is so reasonable we cannot find fault with it,
it will be the rule of future judgment of God,
as it is for the present conduct of man. –Matthew Henry.

God’s purpose in giving this commandment was to protect us in three areas.

I. PROTECTION FROM IDOLATRY.

God said: “You shall not covet your neighbor house,

How can this commandment deal with idolatry.

Neighbor house in OT times described your religion, heritage, and family.

House of Baal,

House of Israel

Christian today says we are of the **household of Faith.**

More specific we are of the Fist UMC household of faith.

**Psalm says: “I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” Psalms 23:6
If you envy your neighbor house you envy his gods.**

As God’s children, nothing should come before the household of faith.

**Psalms 69:7 Zeal for your house consumes me and the insults of those
who insult you fall on me.**

You and I by our sins can bring shame to our name to our household.
By our action we can destroy our household of faith.

**Jesus cleared the Temple because the Pharisees had replaced God’s
house with the world.**

**To those who sold doves he said, “ Get these out of here! How dare you
turn my Father’s house into a market. His disciples remembered that it
is written; “Zeal for your house will consume me. John 2:16-17**

Is there anything in your life that comes before God?
that hinders or halts your move toward God in your life?
The danger here is that we can covet something good in place of God.
A house, career, pension, education, a job, a position in the church?

**Col 3:1-2 “Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts
on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set
your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”**

Idolatry is anything that replaces our trust in God.
Covetousness encouraged idolatry.

Where did Satan come from?
One story of history is recorded in **Isaiah 14: 12**
He was called Lucifer, the son of the morning.
He was the Archangel of heaven.
As head angel he was chosen to lead worship and adoration toward God .

One day he began to have that **desire to acquire**
It became a raging fire to elbow God out of the way.
He wanted to be God?
There was a great war in heaven.
God kicked him out of heaven.
Along with a third of the angels.

He became the Father of lies.
 The Prince of Darkness.
 The Beelzebub of deceit.
 A cornerstone of covetousness.

When covetousness touches the heart of a man or woman.
 We not only don't have any **time for God.**
 We don't have any **tithe for God either.**
Covetousness destroys generosity, and worship.

I Cor. 10:7 Do not become Idolaters, as some of them were;’ as it is written the people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry.

Covetousness is like super glue.
 Pop the cap and in seconds you got more glue on your
 Hands then on the pieces you're gluing together.
 It just gets a hold of you.

Two mountain boys spotted a bobcat up a tree and one said: One said, "I'll shimmy up that tree and chase him down, and you put him in a sack." The other agreed, and the first fellow climbed up the tree, reached the limb shook it, and the cat tumbled down. The other fellow grabbed the cat by the back of the neck and tried to put him into a sack. There was a terrible commotion. Dust and fur and skin flying in all directions. The fellow in the tree called down, "What's the matter, you need help catching that little ol' bobcat?" "No," replied his friend. "But I need help turning him a-loose."

When covetousness gets its claws in us we need help turning it loose.
Jesus repeats the OT law of God’ Matthew 22:37 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Doesn't this sound like the first four commandment?
 You shall have no other gods before me.

God said: “You shall not covet YOUR NEIGHBOR HOUSE.

GOD GAVE US THIS COMMANDMENT FOR

I. PROTECTION FROM IDOLATRY.

II. PROTECTION IN OUR MARRIAGE

You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife.

How many marriages have been destroyed.
 Because someone started looking at a person in another marriage.
 a person **who the Bible says you have no right to desire**
 This is the way to the worst form of tragedy and sorrow,
 Because this sin involved more than just one person.
 It involves the spouse, the children, OF BOTH FAMILIES AS WELL.

The Janus Report on Sexual Behavior estimates that
 More than 19 million husbands and 12 million wives have had an affair.
 We have gotten to the place where infidelity
 is so common it is no longer seen as deviant.
 Even though 7 out of 10 Americans still believe adultery is wrong.
 The world is out to destroy marriage.

Now the myth of the world is that adultery must end in divorce.
 Painful as it is, that is not true.
 35% of couples remain together after an affair.
 One counselor reports that over 98% of the couples she treats remain
 together after counseling.
 Because God is a God of forgiveness and grace.
 And we are of the Household of faith.

But we must be wise.
 Because Adultery occurs most often among friends.
 We must pick and choose our friends wisely.
 We must maintain carefully our relationship with our spouses.
 We must avoid alcohol or drug abuse which remove our inhibitions and
 make us vulnerable.
 We must seek God's provision for happiness and not our own.

I now include in every wedding I perform a vow for the Bridesmaids and
 groomsmen, the parents, and the Congregation.
**Will you support them in their marriage, encourage and pray for them
 in their life long commitment? If so answer by: God's grace we will.**
 Friends we as a Congregation **need to support and commit our strength**
 and energies, to do the same for every couple who come into this church
 family.

So this morning: PASTOR: Will you support every couple here in their marriage, encourage and pray for them to keep the vows, and so remain together until life ends? **If so answer by: God's grace we will.**

**Last : GOD GAVE US THIS COMMANDMENT FOR
II. PROTECTION IN OUR MARRIAGES
III. PROTECTION FOR OUR SOCIETY.**

¹⁷ "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

Covetousness is any unreasonable desire for what we do not possess.

To Covet is to desire the unlawful.

To Covet is to desire something you have no right to have or possess.

Are you coveting your neighbor's car, antiques, clothing, hunting supplies, golf cart or scores? Or maybe their health, or age, or status? Or maybe even their talents?

Like the guy came to his pastor and said,

"Reverend, I only have one talent."

The pastor asked, "What's your talent?"

The man said, "I have the gift of criticism."

The pastor replied, "The Bible says that the guy who had only one talent went out and buried it. Maybe that's what you ought to do with yours."

If things bring happiness in our world.

Then our world should be the most contented in history.

In 1976 a supermarket had 9000 stock items

Today they stock over 30,000 items.

We are obsessed to possess.

But we have more **unrest, suicide, divorce, debt, and bankruptcy,**

Than all the other poor countries of the world put together.

I Cor. 12:31 Paul writes: Eagerly desire the greater spiritual gifts.

Jesus said: Luke 6 to Hunger and thirst for Righteousness.

What would you guess is the Favorite **pastime** of **Teenage girls** today?

A Survey found out that 93% of teenage girls listed their favorite pastime as shopping, or hanging out at the mall. That beats dating. Exercise, parties. Times have change.

Today young People spend their weekends at lavishly decorated malls, with merchandise all lined up, and changing rooms neatly decorated, to entice and create a need.

Just so we can go home feeling that we just **can't live without it.**

We'll die if we don't get it.

We spend our **lives buying and acquiring things we don't need.**

So we get into **bigger houses, newer cars, wider boats**, and higher social statues, until it eclipses everything in our lives including God.

Covetousness is wanting what is not ours,

It is the straw that breaks all the commandments.

It leads to lies, deceit, theft, dishonoring our parents, cheating in our marriages, and even murder.

And we end up its greatest victim.

A lady put some granule ant poison around a hill of stinging ants. They quickly began to carry the supposed food down into their colony.

When she returned later to see how well the poison was working, hundreds of stinging ants were carrying the poison down into their hill. Then, she noticed some of the poison granules were moving the opposite way—

Looking closer she saw smaller, non-stinging ants had found this “treasured food” as well and were stealing it from their ant neighbors. Thinking they were getting treasured food they were unwittingly poisoning themselves and their ant household.

That is the deadliness of covetousness.

WE MUST MAKE A CONFESSION ABOUT OUR OBSESSION and desires.

CONCLUSIONS:

Let me close by giving you the remedy or antidote FOR THIS SIN.

The antidote to covetousness is contentment.

I Tim. 6:6-10 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

When we are content .

We can laugh with those who laugh.
 We can weep with those who weep.
 We can love the lord our God with all our heart, with all our mind,
 With all our strength and our neighbor as ourselves.

Contentment is not just accepting who you are.
 But it is accepting who you are as God created you.
 Recognizing that as Gods child.
 I am set free in Christ.
 I am whole, I am his, and I can be content in this world God made for me.

You remember the program called The Goldbergs. In one episode, Jake Goldberg came home for supper and excitedly told that he wanted to go into his own business. His wife Molly, anticipating such a time had some money put away and gave it to him. As they sat at the dinner table, enthusiastically discussing the future, Jake said, “Molly, some day we’ll be eating off of golden plates!” Molly looked at him and replied, “But Jake, darling, will it taste any better?”Source unknown

Phil 4:12 I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation . I have learned... I have learned. I have learned.

Contentment is a process.
 Were not born with contentment.
 The Apostle Paul said before ----I was into things, covetousness,
 Law, and pride, and position. Now I’m into God.
My God is able to supply all your needs according to his riches in Glory.

Can you trust God for your life?

Will you Start with where you are right now.

1. Will you accept your bank account where it is?
 Whether it’s 200\$ or \$2000 dollars?
2. Will you love the spouse God has given you?
3. Will you love the children you have?
4. Will you enjoy the job you in right now?.
5. Will you accept who you are?
6. Will you began to give back to God a tithe
 for the blessing you have received in thanksgiving for your life?

**WHEN YOU DO YOU WILL DISCOVER CONTENTMENT NOT
 COVETEUSNESS.**

These past 10 weeks we have discovered that the Commandments.
Have shown us our sins.
They have also shown us that we cannot keep the law or save ourselves.

But God has shown us the cross of Jesus Christ
by grace has canceled the Law of sin and death.
When we genuinely repent and are sorry for our sins.
God wipes the slate clean.
We are new creations in Christ.
And when Jesus Christ reigns within our hearts
And we are set free from the snare and enticement of this world.

Oh trust him today, turn your life over to him, and discover
a life of CONTENTMENT NOT COVETEOUSNESS.