



Is Wanting What Others Have Really That Bad?

Exodus 20:17: (NASB) *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.*



The Ten Commandments are iconic. They represent a distilled view of what God wants the human race to follow in daily life. They are concise, firm and explicit. Someone once said that God gave the Commandments as the Ten Commandments, not the Ten Suggestions. The last of these Commandments is the command to not covet. So, how do we here in the 21st century understand what this really means? After all, is not most of our life these days built around the idea of ME, what I want and why I should have it? How does this idea of NOT coveting even stand a chance in our day?

So, what does it mean to “covet”?

Merriam Webster:

Covet: transitive verb

1. To wish for earnestly <covet an award>
2. To desire (what belongs to another) inordinately or culpably intransitive verb: to feel inordinate desire for what belongs to another

Old Testament:

Covet: Strongs #2530 chamad (khaw-mad'); to delight in
Translated into American Version: desire 11 times, covet 4 times, delight 2 times, pleasant 1 time, beauty 1 time, lust 1 time, delectable things 1 time

By definition, to covet can be a very positive thing or a very negative thing. Here is a positive example from the Old Testament...



God literally planted the idea of “coveting” in the Garden!

Genesis 2:9: (KJV) *And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant <2530> to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.*

God built humanity to have a deep desire for what they had been physically given - perfect life and perfect sustenance.

God also built humanity to have a deep desire for what he had been spiritually given - the guidance and laws of God:

Psalms 19:7-10: (NKJV) ⁷The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; ⁸The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; ⁹The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. ¹⁰More to be desired <2530> are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.



Here is a *negative* example of coveting in the Old Testament:

Proverbs 6:23-26: (NKJV) ²³For the commandment is a lamp, and the law a light; Reproofs of instruction are the way of life, ²⁴to keep you from the evil woman, from the flattering tongue of a seductress. ²⁵Do not **lust** <2530> after her beauty in your heart nor let her allure you with her eyelids. ²⁶For by means of a harlot a man is reduced to a crust of bread; and an adulteress will prey upon his precious life.

We have been given strong desire as God's creation and that is a good thing. But as with everything else good that God planted into humanity, sin distorts and confuses the honor and value of desire.

Our society has been built around coveting - wanting something - advertisers are EXPERT at feeding the want!

 **Introduction, Ginsu Knife Ad (1978)**

- In Japan, the hand can be used like a knife but this method doesn't work with a tomato. That's why we use the Ginsu. It's a knife that no kitchen should be without. The Ginsu can cut a slice of bread so thin you can almost see through it! It cuts meat better than an electric knife and goes through frozen food as though it were melted butter. The Ginsu is so sharp it can cut through a tin can and still slice through a tomato like this. It can chop wood and still remain razor sharp. What's more, it's a knife that will last forever! How much would YOU pay for a knife like this? Before you answer, listen! It even comes with a matching fork to make carving a pleasure. Wait! There's much, much more!*



The idea of marketing is to make something so desirable that the audience listening must take steps to obtain it. It is not necessarily bad to want something, but where do you draw the line between an appropriate want and an inappropriate want? What is the context of our coveting?

Is coveting the same in both the Old and New Testaments?

 **Coveting defined, Do Not Covet, Denis Prager, prageru.com**

- We need to understand what coveting means and equally important, what it DOESN'T mean. To covet is much more than to want. The Hebrew verb "lo chamad" means to want to the point of seeking to take away and own something that belongs to another person. Note, that there are two operative elements here: seeking to own and belongs to another person. Seeking to own does not mean just envying, or in the case of your neighbor's spouse just lusting after.*



Theme Scripture:

Exodus 20:17: (NASB) *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. (Do not take away from what your neighbor has so you can have it.)*



It is not the practice of coveting that is commanded against here - it is the *object* of our coveting that commands our attention and what we are willing to do about that object.

The starting point of all achievement is desire. — Napoleon Hill

We have to be on alert to see what is driving our desires and if they are appropriate or not.

What about this subject in the New Testament?

Romans 13:9: (KJV) *For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt <1937> not covet <1937>; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.*



This verse gives us a clear Old Testament and New Testament connection. It uses a very specific Greek word to replace the Old Testament Hebrew word.

Covet: Strongs #1937 epithumeo; to set the heart upon, i.e. long for (rightfully or otherwise)

This next verse also mentions coveting, though it uses a different word:

1 Corinthians 12:31: (KJV) *But covet earnestly <2206> the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.*

Covet earnestly: Strongs #2206 zeloo (dzay-lo'-o); to have warmth of feeling for or against; to burn with zeal; to be heated or to boil with envy, hatred, anger; in a good sense - to be zealous in the pursuit of good

The Corinthian church was using the miraculous gifts of the Spirit, like speaking in tongues, in inappropriate ways. It created chaos in their worship services so the Apostle Paul was chastising them and explaining they need to deeply desire the "best" gifts. We as Christians should have deep desire...but are they proper desires? (We believe the gifts given to the early Christian church are no longer valid, as they were given to spread the Gospel before the Gospel was in written form. **For more information on this important topic, please see the program from May 24, 2015, "Should Christians Speak in Tongues?" Also, May 13, 2012, "How Does the Holy Spirit Work?"**)

These New Testament words are more "colorful" in a way - they seem to be more deeply filled with emotion, and that emotion can either have a very negative or positive impact on our lives.

Negative impact examples:

Matthew 5:28: (NKJV) *²But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust <1937> for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*

A lot of biblical examples involve human sexuality.




Let us change up that last quote a bit:

*The starting point of all achievement **sin is desire.** — ~~Napoleon Hill~~ **Rick and Jonathan***

Sexuality must be put into check in so many different ways and circumstances. It is far more difficult now than ever before.

Acts 7:9: (KJV) *And the patriarchs, moved with **envy <2206>**, sold Joseph into Egypt: but God was with him.*

Joseph's brothers wanted the attention Joseph was getting. This is a classic example of desire gone bad.

 **Now how much would you pay? Ginsu Knife Ad (1970)**

- We also want you to have this six-in-one kitchen tool. It peels and slivers carrots, peels potatoes and slices paper-thin potato chips. This amazing little knife even grates carrots, grates cheese and makes beautiful decorative vegetables. How much would you pay for ALL these items? Well, we'll even give you this set of six precision steak knives. The handles even match the Ginsu! And to make the offer completely irresistible you'll get this unique spiral slicer. Down and down, around and around, and you'll have a beautiful garnish for your dinner table. NOW how much would you pay?*

Positive impact examples:

Matthew 13:17: (NKJV) *for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men **desired <1937>** to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.*

We have the opportunity to hear what the people of old wanted to know so badly!

1 Timothy 3:1: (KJV) *This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he **desireth <1937>** a good work.*

Serving others in a pastoral way comes with sacrifice, time, energy - giving of yourself for others. The context explains the type of person who the congregation should elect into that position of leadership. It is a lot of responsibility and takes deep humility. Too often in Christianity, people desire the office of pastor for selfish reasons.



Whatever way you slice it or dice it (!), coveting and desire are strong, lingering and transformative for either good or bad.



Great! The same emotions and desires build up AND destroy - how do we figure out the difference?

We can actually focus our coveting/desire with relative clarity if we lay out the structure of the Ten Commandments as the foundation for that focus:

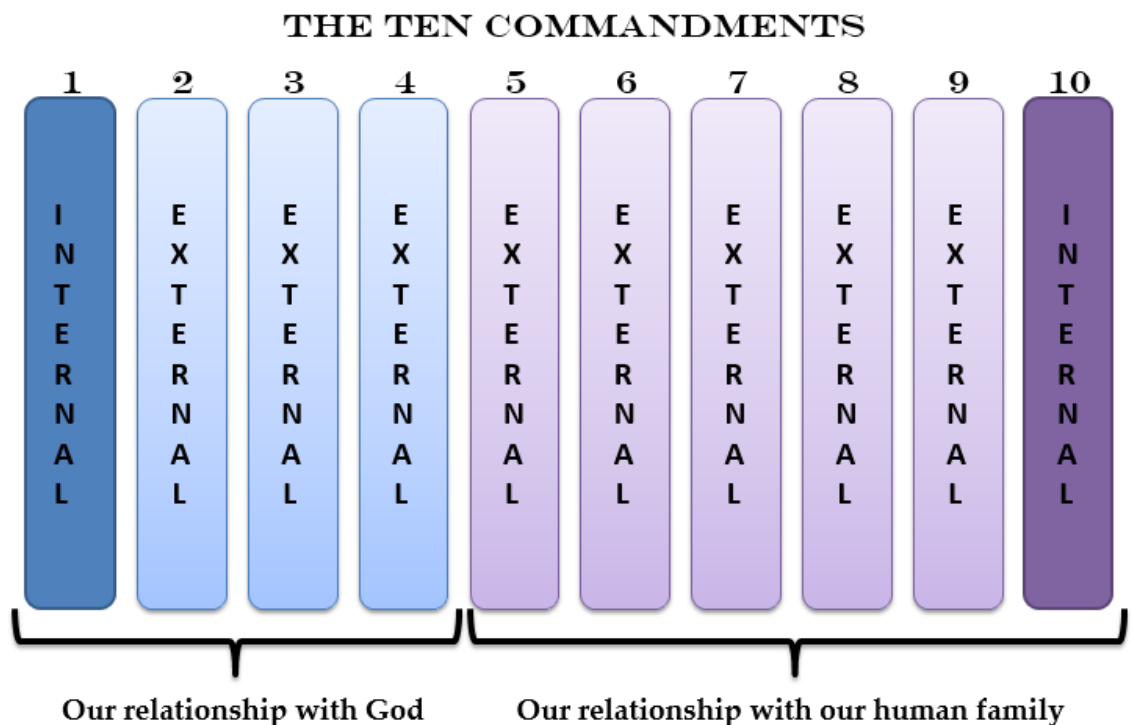


Observations:

- The first four commandments guide our relationship with the Almighty.
- The First Commandment is “internal instruction;” fulfilled within our heart and mind.
- The next three are God-related “external instructions;” their fulfillment can be seen.
- The second six guide our relationship with our human family.
- Commandments Five through Nine are external action instructions; their fulfillment can be seen.
- The Tenth Commandment is “internal instruction;” fulfilled within our heart and mind.



So, what we have is somewhat of a sandwich effect - surrounding all of our actions are the internal desires of our hearts and minds.





Proverbs 23:7: (NASB) *For as he thinks within himself, so he is...*



A caller from Connecticut says she really connects with this topic. She finds herself envious of even the little things other people have who do not seem to appreciate it. This has happened more so since her husband died of cancer. How can she fight that?

One way to get rid of something, in this case the sin of coveting, is to replace it with something else that is positive and God-honoring.

It sounds like she is looking for the peace of God:

Philippians 4:7: (NIV) *And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

We find this by focusing on it and filling our hearts and minds with the word of God and His instructions and inspiration. We ask Him for firm guidance and strength to put these things in place. Focus on what we truly desire. Also, find your joy and fulfillment in helping others.

 **Here's what you get, Ginsu Knife Ad (1970)**

- *You get the Ginsu knife, the matching carving fork, the versatile six-in-one kitchen tool, a set of six steak knives, and the spiral slicer. You get them all guaranteed in writing for 50 years for only \$9.95! It's the most incredible knife offer ever! Here's how to order.*

This builds on the desires of humanity: We can get this, AND this, AND this, AND THIS! The excitement builds up inside us and we can fall off the proper path.

If our hearts are truly set on having no other God before The God, our human desire can then be filtered through that focus so that we do not fall into double-mindedness and deceit.

If we fall into the category of saying one thing but desiring another, we are not acceptable before God:

Psalm 55:19-21: (NASB) *¹⁹God will hear and answer them— even the one who sits enthroned from of old - Selah. With whom there is no change, and who do not fear God. ²⁰He (the one who does not fear God) has put forth his hands against those who were at peace with Him; he has violated His covenant. ²¹His speech was smoother than butter, but his heart was war; his words were softer than oil, yet they were drawn swords.*

It is said that desire is a product of the will, but the converse is in fact true: will is a product of desire. — Denis Diderot

Jesus showed that violating the last commandment (Thou shalt not covet) is always a result of the violation of the first (Thou shalt have no other gods before Me).

This is key to putting our desires in the right place:

Matthew 22:34-40: (NKJV) *³⁴But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. ³⁵Then one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question, testing him, and saying, ³⁶Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law? ³⁷Jesus said to him, you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. ³⁸This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: you shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.*





Love your neighbor as yourself - this is the culmination of the last five Commandments. You cannot love your neighbor in this way if you are coveting that which is his or hers. Jesus is saying if you are not loving your neighbor as yourself, you are coveting because you are missing the First Commandment - loving the Lord your God.

Jesus accused the Pharisees of not being concerned about all of the people they should have been concerned about. Concern over their position of power was more important.

Jesus saw the covetous hearts of those who would judge him, and he sought to give them direction:

Luke 11:37-41: (NASB) ³⁷Now when he had spoken, a Pharisee asked him to have lunch with him; and he went in, and reclined at the table. ³⁸When the Pharisee saw it, he was surprised that he had not first ceremonially washed before the meal. ³⁹But the Lord said to him, now you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and of the platter; but inside of you, you are full of robbery and wickedness. ⁴⁰You foolish ones, did not he who made the outside make the inside also? ⁴¹But give that which is within as charity, and then all things are clean for you.

Jesus was telling them the important part was to focus internally on keeping the heart clean.

The defining characteristics of positive versus negative coveting:



What is the common factor in the four examples of coveting we are about to study?

Satan, the original coveter:

Isaiah 14:12-14: (NKJV) ¹²How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! ¹³For you have said in your heart: I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; ¹⁴I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.

I will be like the Most High - Satan coveted God's position, wanting to replace God with his own authority.



Green grass, *The Grass is Greener Somewhere Else...NOT!* Anthony Meindl (teaching an acting class)

- Working in Australia I realized, which I’ve always known but to keep hearing it confirmed, human beings - that means actors specifically - are the same everywhere. They are struck by the same challenges; they have the same desires and needs that you do. You don’t really realize how green your grass is. It’s very fertile! It is! It’s a luscious garden; it’s a jungle! It is! It’s very fertile but you are thinking your life is somewhere else. It’s not, because what’s the common denominator when the grass is greener is experienced somewhere else? Or in a different relationship or any other of these permutations of what you think is going to make your life better or different?

There is great temptation to think, “If I could only have what they have, I will be better off.”

There is a repeated pattern running through the process of covetousness:

THE OBSERVATION STAGE:



SEEING SOMETHING ATTRACTIVE

THE THOUGHT STAGE:



HOLDING AND PERSONALIZING THE IMAGE OF THAT WHICH IS ATTRACTIVE

THE RATIONALIZATION STAGE:



CONVINCING YOURSELF YOU “DESERVE” THAT WHICH YOU COVET

THE ACTION STAGE:



TURNING THE INWARD SIN OF COVETOUSNESS INTO AN OUTWARD SIN OF ACTION



A caller from Connecticut suggests [Psalms 27:4](#): *One thing have I desired of the Lord that I will seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life to behold the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in His temple.* This was written by King David. If anyone in history was guilty of lust, it was King David, so evidently he learned his lesson.

Focus on our spiritual desires! It will crowd out the human desires.



Eve, the first human coveter:

Genesis 3:6: (KJV) *And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be **desired <2530>** to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.*

Here is the deviousness of sin: Eve connected the positive desire that God implanted in the Garden with the lying deception of Satan. His temptation was that she would be *like God*, and convincing her there was nothing wrong with that. Eve wanted something she was forbidden to have and took it anyway.

Angels at the time of the Flood:

Genesis 6:1-2: (NKJV) *¹Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, ²that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.*

God's own angels followed the lead of Satan and desired what was created out of their reach. They found a way to take it and it was wrong.

Israel's national coveting:

1 Samuel 8:1-9: (NKJV) *¹Now it came to pass when Samuel was old that he made his sons judges over Israel... ³But his sons did not walk in his ways; they turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice. ⁴Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, ⁵and said to him, look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations. ⁶But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, give us a king to judge us. So Samuel prayed to the LORD.*

Rebellion is a symptom of covetousness.

⁷And the LORD said to Samuel, heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them. ⁸According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt, even to this day—with which they have forsaken Me and served other gods—so they are doing to you also. ⁹Now therefore, heed their voice. However, you shall solemnly forewarn them, and show them the behavior of the king who will reign over them.

Samuel took the rejection personally, but the people had freedom of choice although it included God's warning.

What is the common factor in the four examples of coveting we studied?

ALL VIOLATE THE FIRST COMMANDMENT - Thou shalt have no other gods before Me! That was put aside and the inappropriate desire grew because that First Commandment no longer drove the coveter.

All examples replaced the divine character and standard of God with the deviant characters and stand-ins of whatever the moment brought.



To figure out if we are **coveting improperly** ask, "Where does God fit into our desire?"
If our desires are all worldly, there will be no room for God.



We received an email this week from a listener who said: I'm so blessed by your weekly broadcasts, and the topics on immortality, hell and where we go when we die have been such an eye opener for me. I keep listening to those recordings over and over again.

How do we learn to avoid improper coveting?

The following text firmly identifies the problem AND clearly points to the solution:

James 4:1-10: (NKJV) ¹Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your *desires for pleasure <2237>* that war in your members? ²You *lust <1937>* and do not have. You murder and *covet <2206>* and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your *pleasures <2237>*. ⁴Adulterers 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. ⁵Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, the Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously? ⁶But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. ⁷Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

This really disputes the so-called Prosperity Gospel popular today. *You ask and do not receive* - you are asking out of your own wants. We are supposed to want the life God wants for us through Jesus. THAT is the life we should be coveting - my life for God through Jesus.

 **Good and bad coveting, *Do Not Covet*, Denis Prager, prageru.com**

- The 10th Commandment doesn't prohibit you from saying, "Wow what a great house or car or spouse my neighbor has. I wish I had such a house or car or spouse." That may end up being destructive, but it also may end up being constructive. How? It may spur you to work harder and improve your life so that you can obtain a house, or car, or spouse like your neighbor's. It is when you want and seek to gain possession of this specific house, car or spouse that belongs to another that evil ensues, and that that is what the 10th Commandment prohibits.*

Desires for things can be good if they spur us to do things with integrity and in accordance with the will of God. Remember, just because it is a desire in your heart does not automatically mean God wants it for you. Are you setting up anything or anyone else as "god," and are you following in the footsteps of Christ?

Let us get back to the defining characteristics of positive versus negative coveting by looking again at those Scriptures in James.



The object of our coveting in James 4:1 is the negative. James 4:6-7 describes the positive object of our coveting.

James 4:1,6-7: (NKJV) *Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your **desires for pleasure <2237>** that war in your members?*

OBJECT
OF YOUR
COVETING



Desires for pleasure: Strongs #2237 hedone (hay-don-ay'); from handano (to please); sensual delight; by implication, desire

James explains this is one of the problems with our coveting - it comes from our physical desires. How do we know if our desires are good or bad?

⁶But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. ⁷Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

The solution James gives to counteract these earthly desires is to *submit to God*. This will temper our physical sensuality and whatever it may be driving us towards. *The devil will flee from you* - because he no longer will have a foothold because your focus is on God.

Obsession is so extreme and so hard to imagine with the rational mind that it has a science fiction-like quality to it - it's almost as if the obsessed one has been taken over by a replica, a pod, a facsimile of the rational person. When one is in the grip of an obsession, everything else - children, regular meals, sleep, work - is swept away. — Susan Cheever, speaking on sexual addiction

Desire is not too many steps away from obsession. We need to be on guard.



The circumstances of our coveting in James 4:2 are the negative side. But James 4:8-9 show us the positive.

CIRCUMSTANCES

OF YOUR

COVETING

James 4:2,8-9: ²You **lust <1937>** and do not have. You murder and **covet <2206>** and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.

Human desire that is not God-based often never “feels” fulfilled. If we are not asking for the right things in the right way, of course you will not be fulfilled and will always be empty. This could lead to being driven to, and perhaps obsessed with the wrong things.

What is the solution?

⁸Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.

This describes a profound process. *Draw near to God and He will draw near to you* - this can be done through prayer, by reading God’s word, fellowship, in meditation on spiritual things and more. When we draw near to God, by definition we are drawing away from those other things. *Cleanse your hands* - stop doing the sinful things! Clean up your actions! *Purify your hearts* - it is not enough to stop doing the sinful actions. You have to stop being doubleminded. *Lament, mourn and weep* - be sad and sorry for what you have been doing. Repenting is a part of this. This is the process to get back to God.



The reasons for our coveting in James 4:3,4 show the negative. James 4:10 shows the positive.

REASONS

FOR YOUR

COVETING

James 4:3: You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your **pleasures <2237>**. ⁴Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?



You are not getting what you want because you have made it all about you! Being a Christian is NOT all about YOU! It is all about God through Jesus. You are focusing on the wrong thing.

When our focus is on self-fulfillment rather than honoring God, we end up *against* God!

James 4:10: *Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.*

Make it right with God first. Then, with no other gods before Him, He can begin to work with us and begin to give us the strength to rise above.



How do we learn to develop proper coveting?

Our last example of right and wrong desire is very practical. The idea and opportunity for coveting can really take root in the following circumstance: In his first letter to Timothy, the Apostle Paul addresses the servitude that many Christians in the Roman world were then under and the relationship of Christian servants and Christian owners.

1 Timothy 6:1-2: (NASB) *¹All who are under the yoke as slaves are to regard their own masters as worthy of all honor so that the name of God and our doctrine will not be spoken against.*

Paul is emphatically stating that anyone who calls themselves a Christian should - in regard to their social standing - be willing to embrace their lowly state of being a slave. If you are a slave in the Roman culture, serve well. Why? So, God and Christianity are respected! The servant would be responsible, have integrity and perform their work in a quality manner. Learn to work within the imperfect system.

²Those who have believers as their masters must not be disrespectful to them because they are brethren, but must serve them all the more, because those who partake of the benefit are believers and beloved. Teach and preach these principles.

In other words, if your master happens to be a Christian, you should be all the more happy to serve because you are blessing and serving believers.

Why doesn't Paul say Christian owners should free their slaves? In those days, that relationship was similar to our employer/employee relationships before there were unions protecting workers. Employers had a stranglehold on



employees. Paul is advocating godliness for all parties but especially for those who would likely want to rebel. They were supposed to live according to Christ. Jesus did not try to change the political system of his day. The Apostle Paul was not trying to change the political system of *his* day. We should not be trying to change the political system of our day.

Paul's admonition was to be content with what you are given - slave or master. Be responsible and have integrity regardless of your situation.

 **You follow you, *The Grass is Greener Somewhere Else...NOT*, Anthony Meindl**

- *What is it? Yes, the common denominator is you. Which means you're bringing your stuff with you wherever you go. Interesting. So, the environment may change or relationship may change, but what happens? At the surface level for a very short period of time it may seem like, "Oh yeah, this is so great! I'm just kicking it." Then all of a sudden that thing you believed would change once you moved to Australia, or whatever it is, or once you got married, that thing is bubbling to the surface, my stuff. You mean it didn't go away? No.*

The slaves Paul admonished were in a disadvantaged state in the context of their society and Timothy was told to teach this to everyone.

1 Timothy 6:3-5: (NASB) ³*If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, ⁴he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, (sounds like the Pharisees?)...*

Do not create an atmosphere where coveting, improper desire, can flourish. We have choices in the type of environment we have around us. We can grow the weeds of sinful covetousness or the fruit of spiritual desire. What are we planting into our environment to bring the type of growth we really want?

...out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, ⁵and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain.

Godliness is a means of gain - godliness is not supposed to be about getting stuff! It is about spiritual growth by following God through Jesus.

Maybe Paul thought of Jesus' sound words when writing the previous texts:
Matthew 11:28-30: (NASB) ²⁸*Come to me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.*

Jesus did not say he would take away our difficulties in life. We still carry that which we carry, but we will feel relief if we follow Jesus.

When we covet that which is earthly, we will receive that which destroys:

1 Timothy 6:6-8: (NASB) ⁶*But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. (Here is the core of the matter - covet godliness in order to gain!) ⁷For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. ⁸If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.*



1 Timothy 6:9-10: (NASB) *⁹But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge men into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.*

Being rich is not a sin, but if you want to get rich you will fall into temptation by definition. That is one of the reasons Paul is saying it is okay to be in a position of servitude. Use whatever it is you have to glorify God through Christ. Then your desire will be towards pleasing God and not yourself.

WARNING

The 10th Commandment is a profound warning! To covet wrongly is to set ourselves up for the trap of obsession and the end of a spiritually destroyed life. We need to desire wisely and spiritually! Desire in a godly fashion.

*So, is wanting what others have really that bad?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*

*And now even more to think about...
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*





Note From The Editor

Hello, Dear Listeners and Readers! A quick lesson to share with you this week. During the production of this Rewind, I found myself mistyping the word "coveting" as "covering" and realized that one little letter switch - the r for the t - "coveting" to "covering" solves the problem. If I am coveting, what I really need is

the COVERING of Jesus to shield my eyes and move me forward to help me step AWAY from the shiny thing diverting my attention. Covering solves coveting and it is just one tiny little shift to make it so. Hope this helps you as well!

Hebrews 12:2: (New Living) *We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.* Isaiah 61:10: (KJV) *...He has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness...*



How do we "covet" godliness?

- Humbly seek spiritual gifts, selfless love being the height of godliness.

1 Corinthians 12:31: (KJV) *But **covet earnestly <2206>** the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.*

1 Corinthians 13:4: (KJV) *Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity **envieth <2206>** not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,*

1 Corinthians 14:1: (KJV) *Follow after charity, and **desire <2206>** spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.*

- Use your Christian liberty for godly ends.

Galatians 5:13-18: (NKJV) ¹³*For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.* ¹⁴*For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.* ¹⁵*But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!* ¹⁶*I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.* ¹⁷*For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.* ¹⁸*But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.*

- Live the selfless love that you sought and live a forgiven life.

1 John 3:18-23: (NKJV) ¹⁸*My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.* ¹⁹*And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.* ²⁰*For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.* ²¹*Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.* ²²*And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.* ²³*And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.*



- Bend all of your energy towards the building up of your brotherhood.

Luke 22:14-15: (NKJV) ¹⁴When the hour had come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. ¹⁵Then he said to them, with fervent **desire <1937>** I have **desired <1937>** to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.

- Live a “nevertheless” life - that’s what Jesus did...

Matthew 26:36-42: (NRSV) ³⁶Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, sit here while I go over there and pray. ³⁷He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. ³⁸Then he said to them, I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me. ³⁹And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. ⁴⁰Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, so, could you not stay awake with me one hour? ⁴¹Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. ⁴²Again he went away for the second time and prayed, my Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done. Luke 22:43-44: (NRSV) ⁴³Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. ⁴⁴In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. (Note: The oldest manuscripts do not contain these two verses so they are likely spurious.) Matthew 26:43-44: (NRSV) ⁴³Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words.

Comparisons between coveting that which would hurt and desiring that which would bless:

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8: (NASB) ¹Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more. ²For you know what commandments we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. ³For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; ⁴that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, ⁵not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; ⁶and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you. ⁷For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification. ⁸So, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.

Matthew 22:17-21: (NASB) ¹⁷Tell us then, what do you think? Is it lawful to give a poll tax to Caesar, or not? ¹⁸But Jesus perceived their malice, and said, why are you testing me, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the poll tax. And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰And he said to them, whose likeness and inscription is this? ²¹They said to him, Caesar's. Then he said to them, then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and to God the things that are God's.

Finally, quotes to make us think!

A teacher who is attempting to teach without inspiring the pupil with a desire to learn is hammering on cold iron. — Horace Mann

It is only by frequent deaths of ourselves and our self-centered desires that we can come to live more fully. — Mother Teresa

Man is the only animal whose desires increase as they are fed; the only animal that is never satisfied. — Henry George