

Commandment 10
Don't Desire your Neighbor's Things
Deuteronomy 5:21



- With this command, we can not look at a person and say they are coveting, because *coveting happens in the heart*
- A person may covet and talk about the desire, or we can see that a person is pursuing something, but it is not that obvious.



I. What is Coveting and why is it Bad?



- In the worst form it is desiring someone's wife
- When that happens a person starts to plan and think, how can I get close to her? Or how can I get rid of her husband?
- How can I cause his ruin?
- This desiring, coveting becomes an obsession



- It may be desiring someone's things, a house or a car
- And you don't want something like it, you want it
- Then you have to plan and scheme to get it away from the person that owns it. And this becomes an obsession



- Coveting can be less obvious, you don't desire your neighbor's thing. But you desire something like it
- And then you start to plan and prepare, How can I get that thing?
- And it becomes an obsession
- You are discontent, I need it!



- The sin of coveting sends you on pursuits that take away your time
- You pursue temporary things
- And all the searching that you do for whatever it is that you want takes you away from getting to know the Lord



II. What is the Opposite of Coveting?

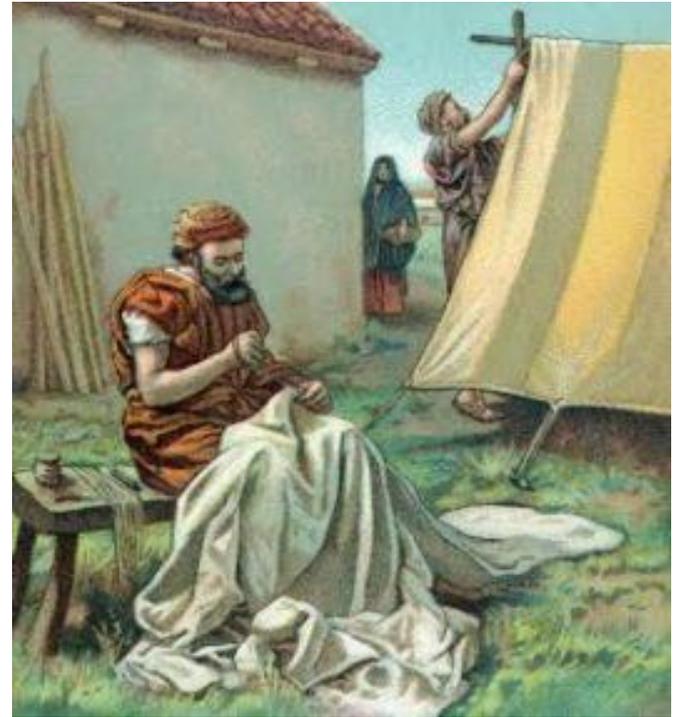
Philippians 4:11-13



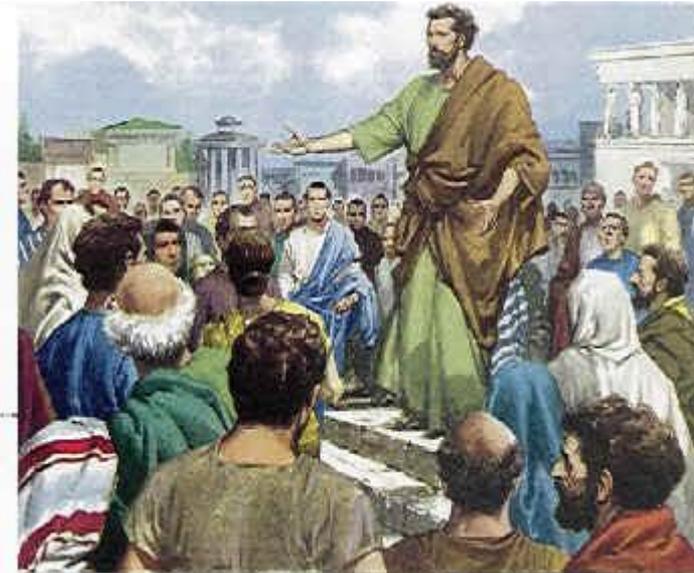
- Philippians 4:11 I have learned in whatever situation to be content
- Paul says that *he learned* to be content
- In any circumstance, meaning no matter what situation he was in he would be content
- Contentment is resting in your present situation



- Paul was a tentmaker by trade and that was a good trade
- When he was making tents, he was making good money
- But there were times when Paul focused on doing the work of the church



- There is only so much time in life, if he had to go without a meal or 2 and be poor so he could teach and minister to people, he would be poor
- Most of us would say, well I could be content with plenty
- It's the poor and hungry part that I have a hard time with.



- If you can learn the secret of contentment, you will be free
- *Contentment frees us from chasing after things*
- But this isn't something that come automatically, it has to be learned



Hebrews 13:5 *Keep your lives free from
the love of money and be content with
what you have because God has said,
never will I leave you, never will I
forsake you*

I Timothy 6:6 *Godliness with
contentment is great gain*

- How can we be content in this fast paced world!
- The answer is in Phil 4:13, In Christ, He is the answer
- It is in Christ alone that we find strength to carry on



- We would like to have a healthy family, comfortable retirement, long life. But life doesn't always work out perfectly
- So when life isn't perfect, what are you going to do?
Can you be content?



- “I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength”
- This is not some kind of nice saying that only applies to people who have been Christians for many years, it applies to all Christians



*I can do all things
through Christ who
strengthens me.*

Philippians 4:13

- If you aren't a Christian and haven't experienced contentment
- You can find contentment in Jesus Christ alone
- You won't find it in this world
- And it starts with a relationship with God through Jesus Christ



III. What did Jesus say about this?

Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you

- There are endless things to pursue and like King Solomon, you will come to the end of your life and realize that you pursued the wrong things
- Don't worry about life, instead seek the kingdom of God
- That is, pursue a relationship with God the Father



- Jesus said to seek “His Kingdom and His Righteousness”
- That is to get to know the God who is the king
- And what it means to live as a part of that kingdom
- Jesus wants us to live righteous lives



- In short it means to love God and love people
- And when we do this Jesus promises
- “all these things will be given to you as well”
- Meaning God will take care of your needs



Commandment 10 Don't Desire your Neighbor's Things Deut 5:21

Coveting is desiring to have what someone else has
We have looked at other commandments that are measurable
When someone steals, it is a physical act
When someone commits adultery, it is a physical act
When someone lies, it is a verbal act, we hear it
Don't have other gods, don't make an idol, don't misuse God's name
With this command, we can not look at a person and say they are coveting, because *coveting happens in the heart*
A person may covet and talk about the desire, or we can see that a person is pursuing something, but it is not that obvious.
Only God can judge the heart and hopefully you are honest enough with yourself that you know when you are coveting

I. What is Coveting and why is it Bad?

In the worst form it is desiring someone's wife
When that happens a person starts to plan and think, how can I get close to her? How can I talk to her? How can I get her from her husband?
How can I cause his ruin?
This desiring, coveting becomes an obsession
It may be desiring someone's things, a house or a car
And you don't want something like it, you want it
Then you have to plan and scheme to get it away from the person that owns it. And this becomes an obsession
Coveting can be less obvious, you don't desire your neighbor's thing
But you desire something like it
And then you start to plan and prepare, How can I get that thing?
How will I get the money to get it?
What will I have to do to get it?
So you look on the internet, where can I get it?
You go to the dealers for a car, where is the best buy?
And it becomes an obsession
You are discontent, I need it!
And you will not stop until you get it
And once you have whatever it is, you are discontent again and go on another search for something to make you happy
The sin of coveting sends you on pursuits that take away your time
You pursue temporary things
And all the searching that you do for whatever it is that you want takes you away from getting to know the Lord

II. What is the Opposite of Coveting? Philippians 4:11-13

Philippians 4:11 I have learned in whatever situation to be content

Paul says that *he learned* to be content

In any circumstance, meaning no matter what situation he was in he would be content

Contentment is resting in your present situation

Whether in need or having plenty, well fed or hungry

Poor or rich it didn't matter, Paul was content

Paul was a tentmaker by trade and that was a good trade

When he was making tents, he was making good money

But there were times when Paul focused on doing the work of the church

And when he did that he usually didn't get paid by the church

And so he was poor and maybe had a skip a few meals

But he was OK with that because he wanted to minister to the people. You may ask, why didn't Paul work all the time so he could be comfortable?

Because he had priorities, he wanted to teach the Bible 1st

Contentment helps you prioritize things in life

There is only so much time in life, if he had to go without a meal or 2 and be poor so he could teach and minister to people, he would be poor

Most of us would say, well I could be content with plenty

It's the poor and hungry part that I have a hard time with.

You can struggle with this all your life or you can learn the secret

If you can learn the secret of contentment, you will be free

Contentment frees us from chasing after things

But this isn't something that come automatically, it has to be learned

We can take a lesson from one of the greatest teachers of all time

Solomon was said to be the wisest man of his time.

He was the king of Israel, son of David and he went on the experiment of life.

What truly satisfies? The book of Ecclesiastes in the Bible records his journey through learning, parties, money, things, drinking, projects, and work.

He learned the hard way that things do not satisfy

Paul says that he LEARNED the secret of being content

And a secret by its very nature is difficult to learn

Hebrews 13:5 *Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have because God has said, never will I leave you, never will I forsake you*

I Timothy 6:6 *Godliness with contentment is great gain*
You may hear these words and say that's way too simplistic
How can we be content in this fast paced world!
The answer is in Phil 4:13, In Christ, He is the answer
It is in Christ alone that we find strength to carry on
You won't find strength in people, they will only drain you
You won't find happiness in things
There are always more things to buy and things get old
The strength, peace and contentment come from Christ
Well, that's easy for you to say, I have lots of problems
Paul's life was not easy, when he wrote this, he was in jail, he had no
income, he depended on other people
Things do not always go as we would like them to go
We would all like to have enough, well, more than enough, plenty
We would like to have a healthy family, comfortable retirement, long life
But life doesn't always work out perfectly
So when life isn't perfect, what are you going to do? Can you be content?
What or who are you going to depend on?
If you are trusting in your bank account or retirement account
That can go down to 0
If you are trusting in your spouse to give you strength and meet
all your needs
Your spouse will eventually get tired
Where do you go when life is difficult?
"I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength"
This is not some kind of nice saying that only applies to people who have
been Christians for many years, it applies to all Christians
If you aren't a Christian and haven't experienced contentment
You can find contentment in Jesus Christ alone

You won't find it in this world
And it starts with a relationship with God through Jesus Christ
You put your faith in Christ that he died on the cross for your sins
And he rose from the dead so you can have everlasting life in heaven
with God forever
You become a child of God and God becomes your heavenly Father
III. What did Jesus say about this?
Matthew 6:33 *But seek first the kingdom of God and his*
righteousness, and all these things will be added to you
Jesus is giving a promise here for the children of God
Don't pursue the things of this world
There are endless things to pursue and like King Solomon, you will
come to the end of your life and realize that you pursued the wrong
things
Don't worry about life, instead seek the kingdom of God
That is, pursue a relationship with God the Father
Pursue doing God's work
If you put your faith in Jesus, you become a part of God's kingdom
And you get a bonus; you also become a part of God's family
God has shown us a better way to live this life in the Bible
And God has promised us eternal life in heaven with God
Jesus said to seek "His Kingdom and His Righteousness"
That is to get to know the God who is the king
And what it means to live as a part of that kingdom
Jesus wants us to live righteous lives
That is to live according to God's Word the Bible
And so we have to understand what the Bible says
In short it means to love God and love people
And when we do this Jesus promises
"all these things will be given to you as well"
Meaning God will take care of your needs