

Redeeming the Desires of Our Hearts

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."

1. God Calls His People to Rejoice in One Another's Blessing.

2. He Knows How Our Deceitful Hearts Work.

3. Christ Will Have Our Undivided Hearts' Longing.

CONCLUSION: God calls His people to holy living with Himself and one another. All sin begins with the heart's supreme affection being misdirected to something other than God and thus being manifested in something less than love for neighbor. This final word from God prohibiting coveting our neighbor's household, points us to Christ, Lover of Our Soul, who has died to cleanse us from our greedy longings and redeem the desires of our heart to Him above all else. Let us joyfully desire Him alone.

Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 147. What are the *duties required* in the tenth commandment?

A. The *duties required* in the tenth commandment are, such a full contentment with our own condition, and such a charitable frame of the whole soul toward our neighbor, as that all our inward motions and affections touching him, tend unto, and further all that good which is his.

Heb. 13:5; 1 Tim. 6:6; Job 31:29; Rom. 12:15; Ps. 122:7-9; 1 Tim. 1:5; Esther 10:3; 1 Cor. 13:4-7.

Q. 148. What are the *sins forbidden* in the tenth commandment?

A. The *sins forbidden* in the tenth commandment are, discontentment with our own estate; envying, and grieving at the good of our neighbor, together with all inordinate motions and affections to anything that is his.

1 Kings 21:4; Esther 5:13; 1 Cor. 10:10; Gal. 5:26; Jas. 3:14, 16; Ps. 112:9-10; Neh. 2:10; Rom. 7:7-8; Rom. 13:9; Col. 3:5; Deut. 5:21.

Q. 149. Is any man *able perfectly to keep* the commandments of God?

A. No man is able, either of himself, or by any grace received in this life, perfectly to keep the commandments of God; but doth daily break them in thought, word, and deed.

Jas. 3:2; John 15:5; Rom. 8:3; Ecc. 7:20; 1 John 1:8, 10; Gal. 5:17; Rom. 7:18-19; Gen. 6:5; Gen. 8:21; Rom. 3:9-19; Jas. 3:2-13.

“The tenth commandment tells us *not to desire anything contrary to God’s will*. Broadly, it teaches us that all sin begins in the desires of the heart.”

—John Frame