

Sunday morning, November 7, 2021  
Series on Tenth Commandment. What is Coveting (2)?  
Exodus 20:17; Colossians 3:5–6; Philippians 4:11–12; Numbers 11

- I. The Sin of Coveting Is Wanting More or Different than What God Has Provided
  - A. Coveting, Wanting More or Different than What God Has Provided, Could Be Expressed as Envy  
WLC 148; Prov. 14:30; Gal. 5:19–21; Gal 5:26; 1 Pet. 2:1; 1 Cor. 13:4
  - B. Coveting, Wanting More or Different than What God Has Provided, Could Be Expressed as Greed  
Eccl. 5:10; 1 Cor. 5:11; Lk. 12:15
  - C. Coveting Could Be Expressed as Idolatry Col. 3:5–6
  - D. Coveting, Wanting More or Different than What God Has Provided, Could Be Expressed as Discontent
    - 1. If Discontent with Circumstances, Examine If You Are Dealing with the Sin of Coveting  
WLC 148; Exo. 20:17; Phil. 4:11–12; Num. 11; 1 Cor. 10:10; Phil. 2:14; 1 Thess. 5:18
    - 2. If Discontent with Circumstances, the Solution is Not Just Changing Your Circumstances
- II. The Remedy for Coveting Is to Be Content with What God Has Provided
  - A. Contentment Is To Accept What God in His Love Has Provided for You  
LC 147; Heb. 13:5; Eph. 1:4–5; Rom. 8:28; Ps. 119:75
  - B. Contentment Is To Accept What God in His Sovereignty Has Provided for You

*QUOTES*

“Sin arises when things that are a minor good are pursued as though they were the most important goals in life. If money or affection or power are sought in disproportionate, obsessive ways, then sin occurs. And that sin is magnified when, for these lesser goals, we fail to pursue the highest good and the finest goals. So when we ask ourselves why, in a given situation, we committed a sin, the answer is usually one of two things. Either we wanted to obtain something we didn’t have, or we feared losing something we had. Augustine, in *The Confessions of St. Augustine*”

“Envy is really an aching dissatisfaction with who we are, or who we are not. It breeds a way of life that involves constantly comparing ourselves with others and quantifying our successes and failures against our own self-worth. It is actually no way of life at all. This sin leads to a slow death.” Steve Saccone”

“As envy is the antithesis of love, it is of all sins that is most opposed to the nature of God and more effectually than any other excludes us from his fellowship.” Charles Hodge”

“Coveting is desiring anything other than God in a way that betrays a loss of contentment and satisfaction in him. Covetousness is a heart divided between two gods. So Paul calls it idolatry. Covetousness is desiring something so much that you lose your contentment in God.”  
John Piper

“It is our response *to* our circumstances rather than the degree of difficulty that determines whether or not we are discontent.”  
Jerry Bridges

“It is . . . not just the event of loss, disappointment, or frustration on its own, but it is our attitude to these situations that is so important. Crises may bring about a re-assessment of values, life goals, attitudes to death, possessions, career, and relationships. What we think about these things will deeply affect what we feel about them and how they influence our lives. We cannot blame the past or the difficulties in our lives for all our problems. It is how we react to them that matters.”  
Ralph Winter

“Those that will not be content with their allotments shall not have the comfort of their achievements.”  
Matthew Henry

“Pride gets no pleasure out of having something, only out of having more of it than the next man.”  
C S Lewis

“Covetousness is a dry drunkenness.”  
John Trapp

Heidelberg Catechism Question 115. If in this life no one can keep the ten commandments perfectly, why does God have them preached so strictly? Answer. First, so that throughout our life we may more and more become aware of our sinful nature, and therefore seek more eagerly the forgiveness of sins and righteousness in Christ. Second, so that, while praying to God for the grace of the Holy Spirit, we may never stop striving to be renewed more and more after God's image, until after this life we reach the goal of perfection.

Westminster Larger Catechism Question 147. What are the duties required in the tenth commandment? Answer. 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.

Westminster Larger Catechism Question 148. What are the sins forbidden in the tenth commandment? Answer. 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 any thing that is his.