

I Timothy 6; Lord's Day 44

THE EVIL OF COVETING

- I. The sin.
 - A. To "covet" is to judge something to be desirable, and then longing for it with a view to possessing it.
 - 1. To covet is a natural activity of man as a creature, and it is not per se sinful.
 - 2. After the fall into sin, coveting can be either right or wrong.
 - B. Coveting is wrong and sinful in the following situations.
 - 1. When the good thing we desire belongs to my neighbor.
 - 2. When my coveting is immoderate (too much so we are not content) - called a A lust. @
 - 3. When we make the "high" we experience when we obtain it becomes the focus of our desire.
- II. God condemns sin as it begins deep within us: in the imagination of the thoughts of our heart (Gen. 6:5).
 - A. God condemns the very first motions of sin deep within our wills.
 - B. The seriousness of this sin is evidenced in a variety of ways.
 - 1. Scripture speaks of it as A idolatry @ (Eph. 5:5) and says it leads to hell (I Tim. 6:9).
 - 2. It is a deceitful sin, for it is called a "cloke" (I Thess. 2:5).
 - 3. And it is a mother sin, giving rise to many other evils within and without (a A root of evil @ I Tim. 6:10).
 - C. This sin is deeply offensive to God.
 - 1. Covetousness damages love for God.
 - 2. Covetousness is the act of worshiping earthly things rather than Him.
 - 3. The things of God are not desired (Matt. 13:22) when we are overrun by desire, greed, and jealousy.
 - 4. Covetousness destroys relationships with jealousy, so we cannot love our neighbor.
- III. The positive calling.
 - A. Salvation in Jesus Christ means forgiveness for all of our coveting, and also freedom from having to covet.
 - B. Rejoice at your neighbor's prosperity and good, seeing God as the Giver (instead of selfishly bitter).
 - C. Perform the spiritual exercises which help us to resist this sin.