

You shall not covet

30 January 2011

Exodus 20:17

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.

I. What does it mean to covet?

- A. Desire for what we do not have
- B. Life, wife (Proverbs 6:25), employees, livelihood, transportation, anything else
- C. Love of money: a stand-in for other kinds of coveting (Matthew 6:24) "You cannot serve God and money."

II. American covetousness

- A. This is the hallmark sin of our culture
- B. Commerce is no excuse
- C. "The economy" is our god: if we are getting richer, we are doing what is right
- D. We define ourselves by what we consume
- E. Obsolescence and the latest technology
- F. Gourmets and gourmands (Job 20:20)
- G. Fine homes
- H. Cool cars

III. The shame of coveting

- A. Service of creation instead of the creator
- B. Idolatry (Ephesians 5:5; Colossians 3:5)
- C. Foundational sin: others build on it
- D. What does God care about? (Ephesians 5:3-5)
- E. A secret sin
- F. Castles in the air

IV. Antidotes to coveting

- A. Note: coveting is *not* the fault of our culture (Mark 7:20-23)
- B. Longing for God
- C. Desiring righteousness (Psalm 19:10)
- D. Thankfulness
- E. Love of neighbor (Romans 13:9)
- F. Repentance of sin
- G. Contentment with what you have – even if it's not much (Luke 11:3; Hebrews 13:5)
- H. The Lord's rebuke: taking away what we desire (Psalm 39:11)

V. You are more than what you have! (Luke 12:15)

VI. The temptation of Jesus Christ and covetousness

- A. The first sin of mankind was out of covetousness (Genesis 3:6)
- B. Jesus refused to covet what was not his yet (Luke 4:3-13)