

“The Desire to Acquire”

Exodus 20:17

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I. Introduction

- A. With the 10th commandment, we come to what is perhaps the most convicting and searching of all the commandments
 - 1. Because it is the inward sin or attitude that leads to the actions that break all the other commandments
 - 2. The first nine commandments are primarily deeds, and the 10th commandment is desire
 - a) (1 Timothy 6:10)
 - 3. Remember God’s laws are for our good
 - a) God is warning us of the desire to acquire
 - b) It is the sin that got Paul
 - 1) (Romans 7:7)
 - c) We need a savior—Jesus Christ

II. What is Coveting?

- A. The word “covet” is not a bad word; it simply means “desire.” However, in this context, it is a bad desire
 - 1. In Romans 7:7, Paul used it as lust for what belongs to someone else
 - 2. It is to fix your desire upon or the desire to have more. It is the consuming compulsion to possess more
 - 3. To possess what belongs to others (v. 17)
 - a) Jealousy and greed
 - b) I want more
 - 4. It is not the act of admiring something. It is saying “I want it” and “I must have it”
 - a) (James 4:1-2)

III. God Condemns Covetousness

- A. The Lord abhorreth the covetous (Psalm 10:3)
 - 1. The covetous shall not inherit the kingdom of God
 - a) (1 Corinthians 6:9-10)
 - b) (Ephesians 5:5)
 - 2. Jesus lists sins that come from the heart of man...including covetousness.” (Mark 7:21-23)
 - a) (Luke 12:13)
 - 3. Covetousness is an insidious sin
 - a) It can lead us to break all the other commandments
 - 1) We can covet
 - a. Possessions
 - b. People

- c. Position
 - d. Power
 - e. Popularity
- 2) Illustration- King Solomon- “it’s all vanity”

IV. Let’s See What Paul said About Covetousness

- A. Paul is warning us of the dangers of covetousness
1. (1 Timothy 6:5-12)
 2. Illustration- Eve (Genesis 3)
 - a) Lot and Abraham
 - b) Achan (Joshua 7)
 - c) Ahab coveted Naboth’s vineyard
 - d) David coveted his neighbor’s wife
 - e) (2 Kings 5)
 - f) Judas
 3. Covetousness can captivate our minds and sabotage our souls
 - a) No time for God
 - b) The Bible
 - c) Prayer
 - d) Fellowship
 - e) Family
 - f) Service to others
 4. “Covetousness, which is idolatry” (Colossians 3:5)
 - a) Illustration- The Rich Young Ruler

V. What is the Cure for Covetousness?

- A. Godliness with contentment (vv. 6-8)
1. Godliness brings contentment (v. 6)
 2. Wealth does not last (v. 7)
 - a) Illustration- Alexander the Great
 3. Our basic needs are easily met (v. 8)
 - a) (Philippians 4)
 - b) (Hebrews 13:5)
- B. Flee, follow, fight (vv. 11-12)
1. What do you flee from? (v. 11)
 - a) Keep fleeing
 - b) A daily obedience
 - 1) Fornication
 - a. (1 Corinthians 6:18)
 - 2) Youthful lusts
 - a. (2 Timothy 2:22)
 2. What do you follow? (v. 11)
 - a) Righteousness
 - 1) (Matthew 6:33)
 - b) Godliness
 - 1) Holiness like God

- c) Faith
 - 1) Trusting God's provision
 - d) Love
 - 1) Love your neighbor
 - e) Patience
 - 1) To remain under
 - f) Meekness
3. What do you fight for? (v. 12)
- a) "I have fought the good fight" (2 Timothy 4:7)

VI. Conclusion

- A. We have all sinned
- B. The wages of sin is death
- C. God has provided a Savior (Jesus)
- D. You must receive him by faith
- E. Only Jesus can save you from sin and fill your empty life