

## ***The 10<sup>th</sup> Commandment-You Shall Not Covet Exodus 20:17***

**“Man’s law binds the hands only; God’s law binds the heart.” Puritan Proverb**

**“A man’s contentment is in his mind, not in the extent of his possessions. Alexander the Great, with all the world at his feet, cries for another world to conquer.” Spurgeon**

**Covet:**

**Desire:**

**Positive uses:**

**Kruger** defines coveting as: “an inordinate or culpable desire to possess, often that which belongs to another. The term ‘inordinate’ speaks to desiring a good thing in a wrong or idolatrous manner, while the term ‘culpable’ speaks of desiring a wrong thing that is clearly prohibited in scripture.”

**Negative uses:**

“He takes Eve when she is near the tree. When the tree is in view the force of the temptation doubles. It is much easier to tempt when he has the presence of the object to excite the lust that lies dormant in the heart. If the Christian lets the object of temptation draw near, Satan anticipates that His scheme will soon be effective. Therefore, if it your desire not to yield to sin, you must not walk by it or sit at the door of occasion. Do not look with a wandering eye at the beauty by which you would be taken captive. Do not parley in your thoughts with that which you do not wish to also take into your heart.” **Wm. Gurnall**

“Covetousness is a mother sin because it leads us to break each of the other commandments.” **Watson**

“You say, if I had a little more, I should be very satisfied. You make a big mistake. If you are not content with what you have you would not be satisfied if it were doubled.” **Spurgeon**

**The Westminster Catechism describes three primary ways coveting expresses itself within our hearts.**

1. Coveting is discontent with our own estate.

2. Coveting is envying the good of your neighbor

3. Coveting is having inordinate emotions and affections toward anything that belongs to your neighbor.

**Romans 7** – The Law is not sin; the Law reveals sin and reflects the sinfulness of sin.

**What's the remedy? Three biblical encouragements to help us combat the sin of coveting that takes place in our heart.**

1.

2.

*“Christian contentment is that sweet, inward, quiet, gracious frame of spirit, which freely submits to and delights in God's wise and fatherly disposal in every condition.”*

*“If I become content by having my desire satisfied, that is only self-love; but when I am contented with the hand of God and am willing to be at His disposal, which comes from my love to God.” Jeremiah Burroughs*

3.

**Abiding joy flows from an ever-deepening affection for the Lord.**

## **Closing Thoughts on the 10 Commandments**

### **Small groups:**

- Work through the homework that was previously given for the 10<sup>th</sup> word.
- Make sure to spend time on question 5-6 as I was going to cover but left out for small group discussion.
- Talk about other biblical examples of men and women whose covetousness led to the breaking of other commandments.
- Lesson 9 memory verses-Exodus 23:20 and or 24:3

**Jesus, Your mercy is all my plea  
I have no defense, my guilt runs too deep  
The best of my works pierced Your hands and Your feet  
Jesus, Your mercy is all my plea**