



## No Coveting

12<sup>th</sup> in the “10 Commandments” Series

Exodus 20:17, Romans 7:7, and Psalm 19:7-11

April 3, 2022

Pastor Mickey Klink

### Introduction

In this passage we learn about the tenth of the Ten Commandments.

### The Text:

#### Exodus 20:17

<sup>17</sup> “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.”

#### Romans 7:7

<sup>7</sup> “What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.”

#### Psalm 19:7-11

<sup>7</sup> “The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; <sup>8</sup> the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; <sup>9</sup> the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. <sup>10</sup> More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. <sup>11</sup> Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.”

1. The tenth commandment forbids desiring things outside or beyond what God has given.
2. The tenth commandment demands that Christians pursue contentment in the Lord.

*Westminster Larger Catechism 147:*

*Q: What are the duties required in the tenth commandment?*

*A: 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.*

3. The tenth commandment shepherds us to aim our desires toward Christ and his providential provisions for us.

**Application:** What does obeying the tenth commandment look like?

Contentment Test: You might be coveting if...

- (1) you have hurt others to get more for yourself.
- (2) you are preoccupied with making and accumulating more.
- (3) you are unwilling to give up what you already have.
- (4) you are frequently grumbling about your house, spouse, possessions, or the state of your life.

### Response

Lord, help us to submit and align our desires to your will for us, and learn to enjoy your provisions for us.

**Sunday Text Questions for Ten Commandments Series**

**Exodus 20:17, Romans 7:7, and Psalm 19:7-11**

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- 1) Starter Question: If you could have any material item in the world, no matter how expensive or extravagant it is, what would it be?
- 2) Read Exodus 20:17, Romans 7:7, and Psalm 19:7-11 aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) How is desire a natural and God-given part of our human nature, even essential to our worship of God?
- 4) What does this statement mean: “our desires become distorted when they move outside or beyond what God has given to us?”
- 5) The Westminster Catechism (Q 147) said the duty required in the 10<sup>th</sup> commandment was to pursue “a full contentment with our own condition.” How does one pursue this?
- 6) What are the challenges Christians will face as they try to honor the 10<sup>th</sup> commandment in a culture that worships wealth and possessions and entices us to pursue materialistic pleasures?
- 7) What are symptoms of discontentment in a person’s life?
- 8) What are symptoms of contentment in the life of a Christian?
- 9) Read Matthew 6:31-33. What does this text teach the Christian about contentment in daily things?
- 10) Read Ecclesiastes 9:9. What does this text teach the Christian about contentment in marriage?

**Further study this week:** Passages related to the 10<sup>th</sup> commandment: Philippians 4:11-13 (Mon); 1 Timothy 6:6-12 (Tues); 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (Wed); Job 36:11 (Thurs); Proverbs 30:7-9 (Fri).