

## Contented in a Greedy World

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 belongs to your neighbor." (Exodus 20:17, NASB)*

### 1. This Commandment speaks to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Covetousness.

*"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 belongs to your neighbor." (Exodus 20:17)*

- A. Coveting someone else's \_\_\_\_\_ -- "neighbor's house."
- B. Coveting someone else's \_\_\_\_\_ --- "neighbor's wife."
- C. Coveting someone else's \_\_\_\_\_ ---  
"or his manservant or maidservant."
- D. Coveting someone else's \_\_\_\_\_ --- "his ox or donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor."

### 2. This Commandment Speaks to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Covetousness.

*"You shall not covet..."*

- A. Covetousness begins as an intense \_\_\_\_\_ for something that is not yours.

### Thomas Watson's Definition of Covetousness

- 1) When his thoughts are wholly taken up by the world.
- 2) When he takes more pains for getting earth than getting heaven. He hunts for the world; he wishes only for heaven.
- 3) When all his talk is about the world.
- 4) When he so sets his heart upon worldly things, that for the love of them, he will part with the heavenly.
- 5) When he overloads himself with worldly business and cannot find time for God.
- 6) Whose heart is set upon the world, that, to get it, he cares not what unlawful means he uses.



**B. The desire proceeds to a \_\_\_\_\_.**

*“For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness.” (Mark 7:21–22)*

*“So Achan answered Joshua and said, “Truly, I have sinned against the LORD, the God of Israel, and this is what I did: when I saw among the spoil a beautiful mantle from Shinar and two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold fifty shekels in weight, then I coveted them and took them; and behold, they are concealed in the earth inside my tent with the silver underneath it.” (Joshua 7:20–21)*

**C. The deed many times is done with \_\_\_\_\_.**

*“For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness.” (Mark 7:21–22)*

**D. This deception leads to personal \_\_\_\_\_.**

*“But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.” (1 Timothy 6:6–10)*

The conclusion of Achan’s story: “Joshua said, “Why have you troubled us? The LORD will trouble you this day.” And all Israel stoned them with stones; and they burned them with fire after they had stoned them with stones.” (Joshua 7:25)

### **Biblical Illustrations of Covetousness**

- 1) Eve, Genesis 3:6-7.
- 2) Joseph’s Brothers, Genesis 37:1-36.
- 3) Achan, Joshua 7:20-25.
- 4) David, 2 Samuel 11:1-27.
- 5) Ahab, 1 Kings 21:1-29.
- 6) Ananias and Sapphira, Acts 4:36-5:11.



## The Effect of Always Wanting More

- 1) Fatigue--- (Proverbs 23:4)
- 2) Debt---(Ecclesiastes 5:11, NLT)
- 3) Worry (Ecclesiastes 5:12, NCV)
- 4) Conflict---(James 4:1)
- 5) Dissatisfaction---(Ecclesiastes 5:10)

### 3. This Commandment Demands the \_\_\_\_\_ of Covetousness.

*“Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, “I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,””* (Hebrews 13:5)

#### A. Cultivate an \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

*“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!”*  
(Philippians 4:4)

*“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”*  
(Philippians 4:6)

*“If God gives a man wealth and property and lets him enjoy them, he should be grateful and enjoy what he has worked for. It is a gift from God.”* (Ecclesiastes 5:19, GNB)

*“... It is better to be satisfied with what you have than to be always wanting something else.”* (Ecclesiastes 6:9, GNB)

**Happiness is not getting what you want,  
but enjoying what you have.**

#### B. Turn your desire to acquire into a \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

*“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”* (Philippians 4:6–7)

**Learn to admire without having to acquire.**

#### C. Dwell on \_\_\_\_\_ rather than earthly things.

*“Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute,*



if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.” (Philippians 4:8)

**If you must have something to make you happy,  
then you are really not happy with yourself.**

**D. Rely on God’s \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in every circumstance.**

*“Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:11–13)*

**E. Learn to \_\_\_\_\_.**

*“Nevertheless, you have done well to share with me in my affliction. You yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone; for even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs. Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account. But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God. And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:14–19)*

*“Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.”*

(1 Timothy 6:17–19, NASB95)

**The toxin of getting more can only be cured by giving more.**

**Answers:** Object, Position, Partner, Personal Relationships, Possessions; Operation, Desire, Deed/Action, Deception, Destruction; Overcoming, Attitude, Gratitude, Prayer, Please, Spiritual Qualities, Grace, Strength, Give.

