

MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY



TEN COMMANDMENTS #10

PASTORAL NOTE: As with other studies in this series, it is our desire to look at the bigger picture as we take these commandments seriously. The goal is to draw us closer to Jesus Christ in both relationship and holiness through discipleship.

1. Read Exodus 20:17 (NIV). "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor." Today's study is on Commandment # 10 "Do not covet."
2. **COVET** means - "to desire earnestly," "to set the heart and mind upon anything." The **positive**, or **good** connotation is simply to desire earnestly but **legitimately**, like 1 Corinthians 12:31 (NKJV) "But earnestly desire the best gifts." And 14:39 (NKJV) "Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy."
3. The **negative** or **bad** usage, which we will deal with today, is to desire unlawfully, or to secure illegitimately as in Romans 7:7b (NKJV) "For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, You shall not covet." Romans 13:8-10 (NKJV), "Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law."
Covetousness is an intense desire to possess something (or someone) that belongs to another person. It springs from a greedy self-centeredness and an arrogant disregard of God's law. The Bible repeatedly warns against this sin.
4. Let's investigate some scriptural examples of covetousness.
 - Look at Joshua 7:21 and discuss why Achan's actions were wrong (Joshua 7:1, 10)
 - Check out Gehazi in 2 Kings 5:20-27. What was his punishment?
 - What about the rich young ruler in Luke 18:18-25. What caused his rejection of Jesus?
 - What was wrong with Ananias and Sapphira's gift in Acts 5:1-11?
 - Explain what Paul means in Colossians 3:5?

5. What are the root causes of covetousness **today**?

What kinds of things (and people) do we covet today?

How do we justify it to God, ourselves, and other people?

Are **you** guilty of coveting?

Want to do something about it?

6. How can we avoid a self-centered, covetous attitude? Matthew 6:19-21

What did Jesus say were the two greatest commandments? Matthew 22:38-39

Is willing service to others a valid test of love? Read Galatians 6:7-10

How did Jesus address covetousness? See Luke 12:15-21

7. List ways your chapter can lay up treasures for Heaven and choose one to be involved in this year. Then pray for God to make it possible.