

**June 10, 2020**

**Commandment #10**

**Exodus 20:17** and **Deuteronomy 5:21** bring us to the tenth and final commandment in this list, known as the Ten Commandments. The abbreviated version of this commandment is, “Thou shalt not covet...” Exodus lists 6 things that we are not to covet. Deuteronomy lists 7 things. What is missing from the list in Exodus? Of course, both verses end with the admonition not to covet “any thing that is thy neighbour’s.” The word covet means to desire earnestly to obtain. It is an inordinate desire to have or to possess. In the materialistic world in which we live, it is very easy to want what others have. It might be a nice house, a new car, or the latest technology. For young people it can be as simple as wanting a toy or game that your friends have. In Luke 12:15, Jesus said, “Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.”

The sin of covetousness can lead a person to make unwise decisions. In today’s society, where credit is easily obtainable, covetousness leads many to overextend themselves financially, thus incurring unnecessary debt. Covetousness is akin to the sin of pride. As such they are root sins that lead to other sins. What sins might covetousness lead to? How about stealing or dishonesty?

The opposite of covetousness is contentment. Hebrews 13:5 says, “Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have...” When a person covets what they do not have, it is because they are not content with what they do have. Are you content with what you have? Are you content with the clothes you have and the food your family provides? If you are constantly complaining that you have nothing to wear or there is nothing to eat, you are guilty of covetousness. Read what Paul told Timothy in **I Timothy 6:6-10**. Contentment leads to godliness, while covetousness leads to many sorrows.

Perhaps you feel that your covetousness is justified. Perhaps you feel that you need or deserve certain things that you do not have. Notice Paul’s attitude in Philippians 4:11, “...I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.” The heart of man is naturally covetous, but contentment is something that we must learn. In what ways might God be teaching you contentment? How is learning to be content able to give us victory over covetousness?