

THOU SHALT NOT COVET

Introduction:

1. Throughout this study, it must be emphasized that man today is not under the Law of Moses – including the Ten Commandments.
2. However, the things that “were written aforetime were written for our learning” (Rom. 15:4).
3. THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME
4. THOU SHALT NOT MAKE ANY GRAVEN IMAGE
5. THOU SHALT NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD THY GOD IN VAIN
6. REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY, TO KEEP IT HOLY
7. HONOR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER
8. THOU SHALT NOT KILL
9. THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY
10. THOU SHALT NOT STEAL
11. THOU SHALT NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS

I. The Definition

- A. The Hebrew word for ‘covet’ means, “To desire or to delight in.”
- B. The Greek word for ‘covet’ means, “To set the heart upon; to long for; to desire.”
- C. The word ‘covet’ can be used in both a good and a bad sense.
- D. When the thing desired is good, the word ‘covet’ has a positive meaning.
 1. “To desire or wish for with eagerness; to desire earnestly to obtain”
 2. Luke 22:15; 1 Cor. 12:31; 14:39; 1 Tim. 3:1; Heb. 6:11
- E. When the thing desired is unlawful or evil, the word ‘covet’ has a negative use.
 1. “To desire inordinately; to lust after; greed”
 2. It is this kind of covetousness that is forbidden in the tenth commandment.

II. The Danger

- A. The vital importance of this commandment must not be missed.
 1. The other commandments (with, perhaps, the exception of the first) condemn outward acts of wrongdoing.
 2. This commandment condemns the inward attitude and mindset that precedes the outward acts of sin.
- B. It is a reminder that God cares about man’s heart as much as his deeds.
 1. The heart reveals the true character of a man (Prov. 23:7; 1 Sam. 16:7; Luke 16:15; Heb. 4:13).
 2. Sin begins in the heart (Jam. 1:14-15; Matt. 12:35; 15:19).
 3. Thus, the heart must be guarded (Prov. 4:20-23).
- C. The previous four commands would never be broken if the 10th were kept!
- D. In fact, if the 10th commandment is kept, all the others will be also – for covetousness is idolatry (Eph. 5:5; Col. 3:5).
- E. Man must beware of covetousness and learn contentment (Luke 12:15; 1 Tim. 6:6-10; Heb. 13:5).

III. The Demonstration

- A. Consider the following examples of the consequences of covetousness...
- B. Covetousness led Eve to eat of the forbidden fruit (Gen. 3:6).
- C. Covetousness led Cain to kill his brother Abel (Gen. 4:5).
- D. Covetousness led Achan to take that which was forbidden (Josh. 7:21).
- E. Covetousness led David to commit adultery and murder (2 Sam. 11:2).
- F. Covetousness led Jezebel to murder Naboth (1 Kin. 21:2).
- G. The covetous become tools in the schemes of the wicked (Psa. 10:3).
- H. Covetousness keeps men from generosity (Prov. 21:26).
- I. Covetousness led the Jews into captivity (Jer. 6:13; Eze. 33:31; Mic. 2:2).
- J. Covetousness led the Pharisees to reject Jesus (Luke 16:13-14).
- K. Covetousness led Judas to betray Jesus (John 12:6; Matt. 27:3-5).
- L. Covetousness led Ananias & Sapphira to lie (Acts 5:2).
- M. Covetousness led false teachers to espouse error (2 Pet. 2:3, 14).

Conclusion:

- 1. The covetous cannot inherit the kingdom of Heaven (1 Cor. 6:9-10).
- 2. But, they can be washed from their sin and gain entrance to Heaven (1 Cor. 6:11).