

The Tenth Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor's possessions.

"You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor." – *Exodus 20:17*

My Decision

I will not be jealous of anyone else's possessions. I will be content with what God has given me both in talent and possessions.

What do we covet besides material possessions?

- Relationships
- Status
- Time
- Freedom
- Talent

Mark 10:17-22

As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

"Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honor your father and mother.'"

"Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy." Jesus looked at him and loved him.

"One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

Truth: The young man coveted his stuff more than a relationships with Jesus.

What does the curse of coveting produce?

1. Devaluation of God's provision (*One thing you lack...*)
2. Deception about true worth (*...and you will have treasure in heaven.*)
3. Degrading of what is "more than enough" (*Then come, follow me.*)
4. Disappointment in God (*He went away sad...*)

What is the blessing of contentment?

For godliness with contentment is great gain. – 1 Timothy 6:6

(Continues on back)

The Big Ten Challenge

I will commit to convene my most important small group (my family) once a week to discuss this week's commandment. We will discuss the commandment questions with honesty and truthfulness and close our time by praying for each other.

Ideas for parents with young kids:

Talk to your kids about why it seems that someone else's toys are always better. This is a great segue to a conversation about contentment. Do a gut check on your own level of contentment, Mom and Dad. You can't give what you don't have!

Ideas for young adults, singles and married folks:

People tend to compare themselves to other people (and their stuff) in order to establish benchmarks for success. How has this comparison affected you? Is it biblical?

Small Group Discussion Questions



- 1) If you could have one material thing, and money was no obstacle, what would you want and why?
- 2) What does your one of your neighbors have that you admit would be really nice to have? Did you just cross the line of coveting?
- 3) Which of the non-material items listed earlier do you struggle with coveting the most? Time? Status? The corner office of your boss? One of the others?
- 4) Contentment is a virtue. Where do you believe contentment comes from? How do you become content?
- 5) Read the whole story from Mark 10:17-29. What jumps out of the passage at you about the topic of coveting and contentment?
- 6) How can we pray for each other tonight?