

Contentedness

The Ten Commandments

Exodus 20:17

“No nation has ever survived without a moral consensus.”

—Will Durant, American Historian and Philosopher

“Are we a virtuous enough people to be self-governed?”

—Founding Fathers, The American Experiment

“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

1. The P _____

Do not covet.

Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:4

What is coveting?

- “Coveting is wanting something at someone else’s _____.”
- “Coveting is to longingly wish for something that someone else has, to set your heart upon taking that something or wanting that something.”
- To covet (from the Greek)—“grasping for more”

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don’t get it. James 4:1-2

You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. James 4:2-3

2. The I _____

King Ahab covets Naboth’s vineyard.

Some time later there was an incident involving a vineyard belonging to Naboth the Jezreelite. The vineyard was in Jezreel, close to the palace of Ahab king of Samaria.

1 Kings 21:1

Ahab said to Naboth, "Let me have your vineyard to use for a vegetable garden, since it is close to my palace. In exchange I will give you a better vineyard or, if you prefer, I will pay you whatever it is worth." 1 Kings 21:2

But Naboth replied, "The Lord forbid that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers." 1 Kings 21:3

So Ahab went home, sullen and angry because Naboth the Jezreelite had said, "I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers." He lay on his bed sulking and refused to eat. 1 Kings 21:4

His wife Jezebel came in and asked him, "Why are you so sullen? Why won't you eat?" 1 Kings 21:5

He answered her, "Because I said to Naboth the Jezreelite, 'Sell me your vineyard; or if you prefer, I will give you another vineyard in its place.' But he said, 'I will not give you my vineyard.'" 1 Kings 21:6

Jezebel his wife said, "Is this how you act as king over Israel? Get up and eat! Cheer up. I'll get you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite." 1 Kings 21:7

As soon as Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned to death, she said to Ahab, "Get up and take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite that he refused to sell you. He is no longer alive, but dead." 1 Kings 21:15

Say to him, 'This is what the Lord says: Have you not murdered a man and seized his property?' 1 Kings 21:19

"You shall not covet your neighbor's house."

- P _____

"You shall not covet your neighbor's wife."

- Passion

"You shall not covet his manservant or maidservant."

- Personnel

"You shall not covet his ox or his donkey."

- 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

Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” Luke 12:15

I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. Philippians 4:10

I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. Philippians 4:11

I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength. Philippians 4:12-13

3. The A _____

Practical ways that we can overcome the sin of coveting.

1. Stop _____ yourself to others.

We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise. 2 Corinthians 10:12

2. Gain your significance from _____ , not things.

You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. James 4:4

*“Our problem isn’t wanting things too much; it’s not wanting Him enough.”
—R. C. Sproul*

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. Philippians 3:10-11

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. Psalm 23:1

3. Grow in your _____.

But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. 1 Timothy 6:6-8

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." Hebrews 13:5

4. Express _____ for what you do have.

For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. James 2:10

Key: Prohibition, expense, Illustration, Property, Application, comparing, God, generosity, thanks