

Commandment X

Scripture: Exod. 20:17; Deut. 5:21

Intro: Covetousness is identified as sin (Rom. 7:7) and is also classified as idolatry (Col. 3:5) which unites the first and final commandment, sandwiching the other eight to reveal the inseparableness of all ten. (Gal. 3:10)

1. Outward traits: Commandment 1-9. In sight. Control actions.
2. Inward thoughts: Commandment 10. Invisible. Control attitudes.

I. Covetousness As Sin Explained. (Deut. 5:21; Hab. 2:9)

- A. Desires that are good. (I Cor. 12:31; 14:39)
 1. Good to desire good things. (I Tim. 3:1)
 2. God desires that we desire good. (Ps. 37:3-5)
- B. Desires that are bad. (Hab. 2:9)
 1. Desire for that which you have no right to possess. (Ex. 20:17) (6 things one has no right to)
 - a. Wrong desire almost inevitably becomes wrong action. (Lk. 12:15)
 - b. Worldly desires are iniquitous. (Ps. 10:3; I Tim. 6:10)
 2. Desire for that which you will suffer ill in having. (I Jn. 2:15-16)
 - a. Situation of Eve. (Gen. 3:6) Obsession (as gods)
 - b. Situation of Achan. (Josh. 7:21) Possession (gold)

II. Covetousness As Sin Exposed. (Col. 3:5)

- A. The affections deviated. (I Jn. 2:15-16; James 1:13-15)
 1. Toward pleasure more than God. (II Tim. 3:4)
 2. Toward profit without Godliness. (I Tim. 6:10)
 3. Toward promotion using God. (Eph. 2:2-3) Desires of the flesh (appetites) and of the mind (ambitions).
 4. Toward possession beyond God's will. (Lk. 12:15)
 - a. Beware. (Lk. 12:15; I Cor. 10:6)
 - b. Behave. (Col. 3:5; Heb. 13:5)
- B. The attachments divided. (James 1:8; Eph. 5:3)
 1. Personal problem: inside (James 4:5)
 2. Perennial problem: outside (James 4:1-3)
 - a. Battle against the soul. (I Pet. 2:11)
 - b. Blight to the saint. (I Pet. 1:14)

III. Covetousness As Sin Expunged. (I Pet. 4:1-2)

- A. Recognize the danger of it.
 - 1. Warned of its conclusion. (James 1:13-15)
 - 2. Wars waged to confound. (I Pet. 2:11)
 - 3. Worsens as it continues. (II Tim. 4:3)
- B. Renounce any disposition to it. (II Tim. 2:22; Tit. 2:12)
 - 1. By spiritual cultivation of life. (Gal. 5:16-18,24)
 - 2. By steady consecration of life. (II Pet. 1:4; I Pet. 4:1-2)
 - 3. By scriptural convictions in life. (Ps. 119:9,11; II Tim. 2:22)