

Title: You Shall Not Covet

Passage: Exodus 20:17

Summary:

The Tenth Commandment:

1. Teaches us about God's character
2. Points out our sinfulness.
3. Directs us to Christ and the need we have for Him.
4. Teaches us how to live freely.

Key Truths:

- Left to ourselves, we are all conveters of sin but through faith in Christ, we have been redeemed.
- We are designed to covet. God covets all that is good. But Satan has inverted that desire to self.
- Conversion to Christ is converting us from coveting self to coveting the all-satisfying God.
- Look to Christ, the covetable. Celebrate Christ who has redeemed you so you can covet Him now. Look to His heart, His character, and His promises.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- What sort of things draw you away from Christ?
- What would you sin to get or what would you sin if you did not get?
- What would you sin to keep or what would cause you to sin if you lost?
- What quickens your pulse or craving that feels like starvation or desperation?
- James 1:22 admonishes us to be “doers of the Word.” What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have been exposed to?

Introduction

Cover = to desire

- desire in itself is not sin.
- Sin is not that we desire
 - Sin is more of what we desire and how we desire

Questions of Reflection:

- What would you sin to get or what would you sin if you did not get?
- What would you sin to keep or what would cause you to sin if you lost?

- Reflects what you covet in your heart

Truth: We are all conveters of sin but have been redeemed by Christ.

- We are designed to covet. God covets all that is good.
 - But Satan has inverted that desire to self.
- Conversion to Christ is converting us from coveting self to coveting an all-satisfying God.

Romans 13:8-10

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Passage:

Exodus 20:17

“You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.”

EXPOSITION

The Purpose of the Ten Commandments:

1. Teach us about God's character
2. They point out our sinfulness.
3. They direct us to Christ and the need we have for Him.
4. They teach us how to live freely.

Overview

- I. Covet God
- II. Confess covetousness
- III. Covet Christ
- IV. Count all things as loss but Him.

I. COVET GOD

God is covetable

- God is the most lovely and desirable and delightful of all.

Psalms 19:10

More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

Revelation 7:11-12

And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

The man who covets God above all things ceases covet other things.

- Covet God is more precious than God.
- Covet God is more sweeter than honey

But when we stop, worry, anger, anxiety, and sins do not stop.

Psalms 19:9-10

the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

Psalms 27:4, 8

One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple...You have said, "Seek my face." My heart says to you, "Your face, LORD, do I seek."

Psalms 34:4-5

I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.

Psalms 42:1

As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God.

Psalms 63:3-4

Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands.

Psalms 73:25

Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.

Psalms 84:2

My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.

- Proper coveting: Longing for God to have more of Him.

Matthew 6:21

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Romans 8:34-35, 37-39

Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or

nakedness, or danger, or sword?...No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- These were written by someone who was utterly transformed from Saul to Paul.

II. CONFESS COVETOUSNESS

- This commandment reveals our covetousness
- Previously only mentioned twice before the commandment.

Genesis 2:9

And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 3:6

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

- Eve coveted to be wise as God.

Micah 2:2

They covet fields and seize them, and houses, and take them away; they oppress a man and his house, a man and his inheritance.

Isaiah 45:16

All of them are put to shame and confounded; the makers of idols go in confusion together.

Job 20:20

“Because he knew no contentment in his belly, he will not let anything in which he delights escape him.

Proverbs 1:22

“How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge?

"Covet"

- Compounded desire upon desire.
- World describes it instead as "love".
 - Similar word: Enthusiasm.
- Greek word origin: Greek god of Cupid

Revelation

All who live for the flesh will in the end covet death over judgment.

- death will be preferred for those given into coveting sinful desires.

Covet is not inherently sinful

1 Peter 1:12

It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

- angels desired and coveted what God has to reveal, which ultimately led to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Romans 7:7

What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet."

- Paul, who was previously Saul, was an expert of the law and was "blameless" under the law.
 - What prompted sin of covet in him?

Acts 6:8-10, 15 (testimony of Stephen)

And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking...And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

Acts 8:1-3

And Saul approved of his execution.

And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.

- What caused Saul to rise up so violently? Saul coveted Stephen's life of grace and truth.

III. COVET CHRIST.

Romans 8:1-2

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

Romans 8:38-39

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Isaiah 53:2

For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.

1 Timothy 1:12-15

I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

IV. COUNT ALL THINGS AS LOSS BUT CHRIST.

Questions of Reflection

- Where do I want more than enough?
- What's convincing me that Christ is not enough?
- Why is my heart dragging down from Christ in heaven to cares on earth?
- Do you wish for heaven while hunting the world?
- Do you speak most of the glories of heaven or the vapors of earth?
 - What would others say of you?
- What set before us could lure us away from Christ?
- Would I part from Christ with any particular dream in my life?
- Where am I sinning but saying "at least I got..."
- Where am I convinced that "gain" is "godliness" (if only I had "that", I would be more godly)?
- Whose sympathies have I won by a "cloak of coveting"?
 - Who have I got sorry for me?
 - Why would I want others to be sorry for me?
- Would we pity one whose reward in heaven is great?

Matthew 5:6

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Matthew 6:33

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

- Where do you feel "sorry" or pity for someone else?
 - "I'm sorry for you."
 - But God is not sorry for anyone in Christ whatever their condition or what they do not have.
 - He is sovereign over every situation however different than your own or what is expected.

Philippians 3:8-11

Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Charles Spurgeon: "Any dislike of God's sovereignty arises from a suspicion of His heart."

Look to Christ, the covetable.

- celebrate Christ who has redeemed you so you can covet Him now.

Colossians 3:1-2

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.