

17 - The Tenth Commandment - Exodus 20:17 - 2014-05-11

Call to Worship: Hebrews 13:15

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 13:5-8

Sermon: "The Tenth Commandment" Exodus 20:17

Benediction: Hebrews 13:20-21

Exodus 20:17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

I. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house

You shall not delight in, set your heart on, and desire your neighbor's house.

- not the house itself, or the barn, or the shop
- not the grounds or property or farm or garden
- not the enjoyable things he does there
- not what his land produces for him

You shall not covet these things

You certainly must do your part in providing and maintaining a suitable place for your family to live. If you don't already have a suitable place, you must work, save, wait, and pray until by God's generosity you are able to get a good place to live.

But do not set your heart on your neighbor's house.

Did the Lord Jesus Christ set his heart on his neighbor's house? No, he did without a house. He had no house to call his own. He even left his home in heaven to come down here and be a homeless wanderer for our sakes.

Instead of setting your heart on the piece of this world that your neighbor owns, set your heart on leaving this world behind!

- that house will someday fall to ruins, or else will be burned up in the great day of the Lord
- that property will melt in the incredible heat, as the Lord makes a new heaven and a new earth
- houses and land seem like very durable property, but in truth they are very fragile
- What did Paul covet, what did he desire, that he could get his neighbor's house and property? No, he desired to depart this world and be with Christ, because he knew that it was far better! (Philippians 1:23)

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house

II. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife

You shall not delight in, set your heart on, and desire your neighbor's wife or your neighbor's husband

- not directly, regarding the actual person of the wife or husband of someone you know

- not directly, regarding any other actual woman or man you see in person

- nor indirectly

  - regarding movie stars or fashion models or popular musicians or other public figures

  - regarding women or men who appear on the pages of magazines or websites

  - regarding fictional characters that exist only on the pages of cheap novels or in your own imagination

You shall not covet these men or women, neither directly nor indirectly

You certainly may desire to have a wife or husband if you don't have already. If you do have, you certainly may hope that by God's grace you will be a better mate to him or her, and he or she will be a better one to you.

But you shall not covet your neighbor's wife or husband.

Instead, you shall delight in your own husband or wife (Song of Solomon 2:3-6)

- sit down in the shade of your own tree and enjoy relief from the world's burning heat

- enjoy eating the fruit that grows on your own tree

- find love in the arms of your own husband or wife

- if you are not married yet, set your heart not on someone else's husband or wife, but on the one that the Lord God will provide you in due time

And you shall set your heart on the Lord God; the Savior, Jesus Christ the Righteous (Isaiah 26:9)

- late at night, when desires of the flesh try to rise up within you, that you would set your heart on some sinful, carnal pleasure, set your heart instead of the Lord God

- early in the morning, do not desire to take advantage of some man or woman of the world to your own pleasure, but desire to live in obedience to the Lord, that the men and women of the world may see your good deeds and glorify your Father who is in heaven

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife

III. Thou shalt not covet your neighbor's manservant, nor his maidservant

You shall not delight in, set your heart on, or desire the people that your neighbor has working for him, to serve him

-perhaps your neighbor has plenty of money to hire people to work for him; he hires someone to mow the yard for him; she hires someone to clean house for her; she has her husband's laundry done at the dry cleaner; they don't do much cooking and cleaning up, because they just go out to eat alot of the time; she has money to pay a babysitter to take care of the children sometimes; he has money to pay for his children to be taught at a private school

The Lord's apostles did not desire to see us coveting other people's servants. They delighted when they saw Christians working to serve the saints; laboring to help the church. And what they coveted, what they desired to see, was God's people continuing diligently to serve one another in love all the way to the end, not becoming sluggish, but imitating those who have gone before us who trusted the Lord, patiently working hard until the day they inherited the promises. (Hebrews 6:10-12)

The apostles said that it is good if a man sets his heart on the work of being a pastor in God's church. There is something to desire, to delight in. It is not for every man, but for some whom God calls. Such a man, like the Levite, does not have an inheritance in this world's property, but his inheritance is the Lord God Himself. He desires to serve, standing before the Lord in His temple. He does not desire to have his neighbor's servants serving him; he desires to serve his neighbor with the gospel of God's grace.

The Lord's apostles did not set their hearts on having servants serve them. They set their hearts on being with the churches, to help build up the saints, to strengthen them and encourage them. Their minds were not on gaining servants for themselves, but on gaining servants for Jesus Christ, so that when the Lord Jesus comes back they will be able to rejoice in His presence over the disciples they have gained and taught for the Lord's glory. (1 Thessalonians 2:17-20)

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife

Thou shalt not covet your neighbor's manservant, nor his maidservant

IV. Thou shalt not covet your neighbor's ox or donkey

You shall not delight in, set your heart on, or desire the machines or tools or other useful devices that your neighbor has.

-Your neighbor has very nice cars or pickups or motorcycles. You shall not look longingly at them.

-Your neighbor has very nice power tools, a very nice machine shop. You shall not set your heart on his things.

-Your neighbor has very nice labor saving home appliances. Do not desire these things that belong to your neighbor.

Certainly you may buy useful things for yourself, and if you have hard work to do, and their are tools to make your work more productive, then it is wholesome and good to earn the money for them and to buy them for yourself.

But you shall not covet your neighbor's ox or donkey, useful as they are.

Do you know what is much more valuable, more useful, and much more worth setting your heart to have?

The fear of the LORD

-it is clean and pure

-it is eternal, enduring forever

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife

Thou shalt not covet your neighbor's manservant, nor his maidservant

Thou shalt not covet your neighbor's ox or donkey

V. Thou shalt not covet anything that is your neighbor's

Your neighbor has many things. But do not covet them. If you managed to get them, do you really things they would make you happy?

What would it be good instead to covet? What is it that we can desire in this world, that if we get it, it will make us happy?

It is good to desire knowledge of the Word of God; the doctrines about salvation in Jesus Christ; His commands for how we are to live.

We are strangers here in this world; our hearts break from the pains brought on by our own sin and the sin of others. Nothing that is our neighbor's will comfort us. But the Word of God will comfort us. Let us long for His Word, that His doctrines may revive our fainting hearts.

VI. What does the Lord Jesus Christ covet? In what does He delight? On what is His great heart set?

A. He covets the precious people of God

Daniel 9:20-23 Now while I was speaking, praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God, (21) yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering. (22) And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand. (23) At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are **greatly beloved**; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision:

B. He covets the sharing of the passover with His disciples

Luke 22:14-20 When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him. (15) Then He said to them, "With *fervent desire* I have **desired** to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; (16) for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." (17) Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; (18) for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." (19) And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." (20) Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.

1. not the ceremony of it
2. but the substance of it

C. He delights in His people, in sharing the passover with them. Therefore, you shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor, but instead you shall covet the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Your desire shall be for Him. Your heart shall be set on Him. Your delight shall be in Him.

To be brief, you might quote the Tenth Commandment as “You shall not covet,” since the apostle Paul did so twice in his letter to the Romans.

#### Covet

Hebrew H2530 *khaw-mad*

Strong: to delight in

Greek G1937 *epithumeo*

Strong: to set the heart upon, long for, desire, lust after

Thayer: to have a desire for, long for, lust after

#### H2530 used positively

Psalms 19:9-10 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. (10) More to be **desired** are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

Song of Solomon 2:3-6 Like an apple tree among the trees of the woods, So is my beloved among the sons. I sat down in his shade with **great delight**, And his fruit was sweet to my taste. (4) He brought me to the banqueting house, And his banner over me was love. (5) Sustain me with cakes of raisins, Refresh me with apples, For I am lovesick. (6) His left hand is under my head, And his right hand embraces me.

Daniel 9:20-23 Now while I was speaking, praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God, (21) yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering. (22) And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand. (23) At the beginning of

your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are **greatly beloved**; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision:

G1937 used positively

Deuteronomy 18:6-8 "So if a Levite comes from any of your gates, from where he dwells among all Israel, and comes with all the desire of his mind to the place which the LORD chooses, (7) then he may serve in the name of the LORD his God as all his brethren the Levites do, who stand there before the LORD. (8) They shall have equal portions to eat, besides what comes from the sale of his inheritance.

Psalms 45:11

Psalms 119:17-20 Deal bountifully with Your servant, That I may live and keep Your word. (18) Open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous things from Your law. (19) I am a stranger in the earth; Do not hide Your commandments from me. (20) My soul breaks with **longing** For Your judgments at all times.

Psalms 119:36-40 Incline my heart to Your testimonies, And not to covetousness. (37) Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, And revive me in Your way. (38) Establish Your word to Your servant, Who is devoted to fearing You. (39) Turn away my reproach which I dread, For Your judgments are good. (40) Behold, I **long** for Your precepts; Revive me in Your righteousness.

Isaiah 26:9 With my soul I have **desired** You in the night, Yes, by my spirit within me I will seek You early; For when Your judgments are in the earth, The inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.

Luke 22:14-20 When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him. (15) Then He said to them, "With *fervent desire* I have **desired** to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; (16) for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." (17) Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; (18) for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." (19) And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." (20) Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.

1 Timothy 3:1 This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he **desires** a good work.

Hebrews 6:10-12 For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. (11) And we **desire** that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, (12) that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

see also noun form G1939 *epithumia*

Philippians 1:23 For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a **desire** to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.

1 Thessalonians 2:17-20 (17) But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavored more eagerly to see your face with great desire. (18) Therefore we wanted to come to you--even I, Paul, time and again--but Satan hindered us. (19) For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? (20) For you are our glory and joy.

New Testament instances of the Tenth Commandment being quoted

Romans 7:7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "YOU SHALL NOT COVET."

Romans 13:9 For the commandments, "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY," "YOU SHALL NOT MURDER," "YOU SHALL NOT STEAL," "YOU SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS," "YOU SHALL NOT COVET," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."

Covetousness/greed - which is idolatry  
Worship both God and Mammon



Hebrews 13:5-6 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU." (6) So we may boldly say: "THE LORD IS MY HELPER; I WILL NOT FEAR. WHAT CAN MAN DO TO ME?"

Proverbs 27:20 Hell and Destruction are never full; So the eyes of man are never satisfied.

Downs:

his own evaluation of himself was that he was just fine "I was alive"  
"set your minds on things above"  
Eve was not satisfied in the garden of Eden  
Ahab was not satisfied in a palace  
JRY: David was not satisfied with a harem  
what we should desire is the building up of God's church!

Hodgins:

coveting in general is not forbidden  
notice how breaking this commandment leads to breaking others

Chantry:

no deeds, no words, but something not observable to any other man---thoughts and feelings within your soul; extremely personal  
unbelief  
-in the sovereignty of God  
-in our own sinfulness  
definition  
-intense desire  
-prodigal son coveted pigs' food  
-craving  
-inordinate or perverse desire  
-absorbs a person and fixes his mind on possessions of others  
-brings discontent  
-deludes a person into thinking he cannot be happy without it, but will be happy if he can get it  
when we have exhausted the legitimate means in hard work, we must be content where we are

Prelude: Hymn 2 "God, My King"  
Greeting  
Call to Worship  
Prayer  
Hymn 87 "Holy, Holy, Holy"  
Scripture Reading  
Hymn 27 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"  
Lord's Supper  
Sermon  
Hymn 4 "All Praise to God"  
Prayer  
Hymn 580 "It Is Well"  
Benediction