

Law 10: Being Content **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.*

UNHOLY DESIRE:

To covet is to crave, to yearn for, to hanker after something that belongs to someone else.

What we are forbidden to covet is anything at all.

- * We may not covet other people's attributes.
- * We may not covet their situation in life:
- * We may not covet spiritual attainments.

DEADLY DESIRE:

Most people think of coveting as a relatively minor sin.

Reasons why we should not minimize the evil of coveting,

- * God included it in the Ten Commandments.
- * Jesus listed it equally with theft, murder, and adultery.
Mark 7:21–22
- * The apostle Paul equated coveting with idolatry.
Ephesians 5:5; Colossians 3:5
- * Coveting is such an intense desire that almost inevitably it leads people to break other commandments.

Coveting can be just as fatal as any other sin, which should cause us to ask a very practical question:

**What does my heart desire,
and where will that desire lead me in the end?**

THE HEART OF THE MATTER:

The other nine commandments explicitly condemn outward actions like making idols, working on the Sabbath, and killing, stealing, adultery.

What is different about the tenth commandment is that it starts on the inside. The commandment about coveting is not concerned with what we do, in the first instance, but with what we want to do.

The tenth commandment proves that God judges the heart. In case anyone misses the point, the command against coveting shows that God's law is spiritual.

The tenth commandment shatters illusions of any notion that we are able to keep God's law.

IF ONLY:

So much of our frustration in life comes from wanting things that God has not given us. In our covetous desire, we concentrate on what we don't have rather than on what we do have. We live in the world of "if only."

THE SECRET OF BEING CONTENT

The emphasis on contentment is thoroughly biblical.

1 Timothy 6:6–8; Hebrews 13:5

Contentment means wanting what God wants for us rather than what we want for us.

The secret to enjoying this kind of contentment is to be so satisfied with God that we are able to accept whatever He has or has not provided.

God is all we need, and therefore all we ought to desire.

We do not keep God's law in order to be saved. (That would be legalism) We have been saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. But why were we saved? To glorify God, which we do by keeping His commandments.

John 14:15

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments".