



THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

YOU SHALL NOT COVET

Setting...

- God delivers his people from Egyptian slavery
- Great miracles and God's power displayed
- People gather at the foot of Mount Sinai
- Amidst fire and smoke God speaks...

The Law, Jesus, and how it applies to us

- Jesus came to fulfill the Law & its requirements
- The law summed up –Love God, love others
- The law acts like an MRI –it shows us what's

Romans 3:19-24 “Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. ²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,”

If you could have.....

- any vehicle – what would you drive?
- any home – what & where?
- anyone's ability – what would you take?
- any physical change – what is it?
- any possessions – which ones and why?
- any role or position – what would it be?
- trade lives with anyone – who?

Passage – Deuteronomy 5:21 “And you shall not covet your neighbor's wife. And you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field, or his male servant, or his female servant, his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.”

- covet – desiring something so much we lose our contentment with God, or, losing our contentment with God and seeking it elsewhere.

- unique – internal not behavioral or relational with God and others

Three Questions

1. What is at the Heart of this Command?
2. What does this command reveal about our hearts?
3. How do we apply this today?

1. God's Heart towards his Children

a) desire for them to flourish

Deut. 5:29 “²⁹ Oh that they had such a heart as this always, to fear me and to keep all my commandments, that it might go well with them and with their descendants forever!”

Deut. 5:33 “³³ You shall walk in all the way that the LORD your God has commanded you, that you may live, and that it may go well with you, and that you may live long in the land that you shall possess.”

b) desire for them – thankful, gratitude

- Psalm 50:23 “The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me; to one who orders his way rightly I will show the salvation of God!”

- Psalm 100:4

c) Desire for them to have abundance

- John 10:10 “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly”

d) Desire for them to have peace

- Phil 4:6-7... “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

e) desire for them to choose to trust him in how you were designed, and what you were entrusted.

- knew you before you were formed
- uniquely and wonderfully made
- gifted and placed in this time & place
- prepared works for you to participate in

2. What does this reveal about Our hearts?

a) desires easily become covetousness

- great at comparison and fairness

- verse covers:

- others spouses & relationships

- others homes & resources

- others workloads & privileges

- others stuff

b) we can be deceived in this area
- never brings satisfaction

“Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” Luke 12

Ecc 4:4... “Then I saw that all toil and all skill in work come from man's envy of his neighbor. This also is vanity and a striving after the wind.”

- chokes off spiritual life

Col. 3:5 “Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming”

- see Mark 4 – Parable of Soils

- source of divisions & difficulties

James 4:1-3... “What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?

² You desire and do not have, so you murder.

You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.”

3. How do we Apply this today?

a) ask God to reveal, and examine our hearts for covetousness

- am I happy for others when they have and I do not?
- am I thankful for...
 - where God has placed me
 - what God had entrusted to me
 - those he place around me
- repent of what He reveals in our hearts

b) Restore the Guardrails

- choose to make thanksgiving a practice
- be aware temptation and deception in this area need to be resisted
- ask God to enable you to trust him, and take your desires to him
- identify the lies in our culture and hold truth up to them in advertising & media

c) Be accountable to others

- let your community walk with you

So What?

1. God's heart – our flourishing
2. God's work – Jesus took my place
3. God's invitation – shame and guilt gone, filled with Holy Spirit, empowered to live differently
4. Our Response - participate