

## THE HEART OF GOD'S COMMANDS

Based on the command of Christ #31 – "Beware of covetousness"

1. You shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not make for yourself an idol. . .
3. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God. . .
4. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. . .
5. Honor your father and your mother. . .
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not give false testimony . . .

Romans 7:7 (NKJV) - 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."

Exodus 20:17 - "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

Covet is the same word as to "lust"

The Hebrew word for lust is "chamad"

There are 3 categories of lust in scripture:

- (1) Money
- (2) Sex
- (3) Property

Proverbs 28:15 says, "He that hates covetousness shall prolong his days."

Colossians 3:5 - Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, (Covetousness) which is idolatry.

## **1. Legitimate desire will sacrifice the thing desired for people, but covetous desire will sacrifice people for the thing desired!**

1 Corinthians 13:4-6

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

1 Kings 21:2 - Ahab said to Naboth, "Let me have your vineyard to use for a vegetable garden, since it is close to my palace. In exchange I will give you a better vineyard or, if you prefer, I will pay you whatever it is worth."

1 Kings 21:4 - Ahab went home, sullen and angry because Naboth the Jezreelite had said, "I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers." He lay on his bed sulking and refused to eat.

## **2. Legitimate desire only wants what God wants for us, but covetous desire is not content with God's provision!**

Philippians 4:11-13

11 "I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.

12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.

13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength."

1 Timothy 6:6-10

6 "godliness with contentment is great gain.

7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. 8 But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.

9 People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction.

10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."

## **3. Legitimate desire will not lead to other sins, but covetous desire will lead to other sins!**

James 4:1-3

1 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?

2 You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God.

3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

2 Samuel 11:2-4

2 One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful,

3 and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "Isn't this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite?"

4 Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her.

2 Sam. 10:12 - Be strong, and let us fight bravely for our people and the cities of our God. The LORD will do what is good in his sight."

Psalm 73:1-5

1 Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.

2 But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold.

3 For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

4 They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong.

5 They are free from the burdens common to man; they are not plagued by human ills...

Psalm 73:12 - This is what the wicked are like-- always carefree, they increase in wealth.

Psalm 73:13 - Surely in vain have I kept my heart pure; in vain have I washed my hands in innocence.

Ps 73:16-28

16 When I tried to understand all this, it was oppressive to me

17 till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.

18 Surely you place them on slippery ground; you cast them down to ruin. 19 How suddenly are they destroyed, completely swept away by terrors!

20 As a dream when one awakes, so when you arise, O Lord, you will despise them as fantasies.  
21 When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered,  
22 I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you.  
23 Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand.  
24 You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory.  
25 Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you.  
26 My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.  
27 Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you.  
28 But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds.

James 4:7 - "draw near to God and He will draw near to you"