

The 10 Commandments: How Life Works

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. (Exodus 20:17)

Ice Breaker Question:

How does our society actively promote discontent and covetousness?

Going Deeper from Sunday

Sermon Synopsis

The tenth commandment forbids coveting and includes a list of people and things belonging to the neighbor that are off limits. To covet means to desire to have something that one cannot or should not have. On one level, breaking many of the other commandments begins when we break the tenth commandment. The opposite of coveting is contentment. We can guard against coveting by cultivating rightly ordered desires and a thankful heart. Thankfulness can vaccinate us against covetousness, as can trusting in God's goodness and provision. A good test of whether or not we are coveting something is to ask: Am I desiring that which God is desiring for me?

Share any reflections/questions that may have arisen from the sermon on Sunday.

Going Deeper

Why do you think this commandment is placed last? How does it relate to the other ten?

Why do you suppose God includes specific examples in this particular commandment? (i.e. mentioning things you can covet rather than simply "Do not covet your neighbor's stuff")

Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10

How would you define “godliness with contentment”?

Contentment implies a settled acceptance of what we already have. How can this be called gain?

Would you say that you have the contentment of verses 6-8? Why or why not?

Why does discontent breed covetousness?

To be content with food and clothing (v.8) appears to rule out all other desires, such as for better physical comforts, health, personal advancement, education and other things people consider part of the good life. For a Christian, what is the place of these additional desires?

Paul warns of a trap that catches many (v.9). How does this trap work?

Verse 10 is often misquoted as “Money is the root of all evil.” How does the accurate reading help you understand God’s view of money and ambition?

How can you actively strive for “godliness with contentment?” in your present situation?

It has been said that gratitude is an effective vaccine against covetousness. How

true is that in your life?

(Note, some questions are taken from Rob Suggs IV guide: The 10 Commandments)