
SERMON NOTES November 28, 2021

Today's notes also available at CCPL.life/Connect

Exodus 20:17
Coveting and Contentment
Pastor Mike

I. Defining the _____ of coveting

a. A Biblical definition: _____

b. A practical definition; _____

II. The coveting vs. contentment _____

a. The natural _____ of discontentment

b. The world's answer; increase _____

c. The religious answer; decrease _____

III. The _____ of true contentment

a. Valuing our relationship with _____ over his _____

Circumstances that _____ what we truly value

b. Nurture a heart of _____

1. Understand the _____ power of _____

2. Bracket your prayers with _____ and _____

3. Choose to focus on _____

Closing Challenge;

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. Nearly every commercial on TV seeks to advertise its product by convincing us to desire something that we currently don't have. Is this coveting?
 - a. If so, what does this say about our culture? How big of a problem is coveting in our country?
 - a. Is there is difference between coveting and desiring something? If so, what? Is all desire bad? Is it possible to talk about our desire for things we want without fostering covetousness? If so, how?
 - b. If coveting is rooted in discontentment, is all discontentment wrong? Please explain your answer.

2. If asked which of the Ten Commandments they struggle with the most, very few people will name the commandment against coveting.
 - a. If coveting is a problem in our culture, why do so few people think they struggle with it?
 - b. Is coveting a sin that most people cannot see in themselves? If so, what about coveting makes it hard for someone to see in him or herself?
 - c. If coveting is a sin that most people cannot see in their own life, how can you know if you are guilty of the sin of coveting?

3. Is it helpful to see covetousness as a hunger, comparing it to the physical hunger of eating? Why or why not? As you honestly evaluate your own desires, when you have gotten what you really wanted did that give you long term fulfillment, or did a new desire pop up to take the place of what was fulfilled?

4. In his message Pastor Mike used the "coveting vs. contentment equation" as a way of trying to explain the challenge of discontentment and coveting.
 - a. Do you agree that it is natural for all people to have an inequality of discontentment, where we desire more than we have? Explain your answer.
 - b. The world's answer to this inequality is to try and increase the amount we have. Why doesn't this work? How can you be influenced by the world's thinking on this?
 - c. The religious answer to this inequality is the try and decrease the amount we desire. Why doesn't this work?

5. What is the relationship between coveting, contentment, and thanksgiving?
 - a. Can a person be covetous and thankful at the same time? Explain your answer?
 - b. Why is thankfulness a better solution to the "coveting vs. contentment equation" than trying to decrease our desires?
 - c. What can you do to nurture a heart of thankfulness?