

**"Coveting, The Silent Killer"
(Exodus 20:17)**

That God is keenly interested in how we handle our wants and desires is clear from the 10th commandment, "Thou Shalt Not Covet." Coveting is at the root of nearly all sin, so we must be aware of. . .

I. Coveting Defined

(Gen 3:6; Num 11:34; Josh 7:21; Prov 6:25; Mic 2:1-2; Col 3:1-5; Heb 13:5-6)

- A strong **desire**
- For what God has **forbidden to us**
- **Discontent** with what God has provided

II. Coveting Diagnosed (Mark 7:21-22)

- **Coveting in Others**
(Matt 19:16-22; Luke 12:13-21; Rom 7:7-13)
Rich Young Ruler; Disgruntled Brother/Rich Fool; Apostle Paul
- **Coveting in Ourselves**
(Ps 139:23-24; Prov 4:23; Jer 17:9)
 - *Do I grumble and complain often? (1 Cor 10:10)
 - *Do I become envious of what others have? (Rom 12:15; 1 Tim 6:6)
 - *Am I often filled with anxiety and fear? (Heb 13:5-6)
 - *Do I have a preoccupation with my possessions? (Lk 12:16-21)
 - *Am I "tight-fisted" with what God has given me? (Deut 15:7-8)
 - *Do I tend to give God my "left-overs"? (Mal 1:6-8, 13-14)
 - *Do I love things and use people rather than reverse? (Rom 13:8-10)
 - *Am I a hard worker or scheme to get rich quick? (Prov 28:20,22)
 - *Do I exercise self-control over my desires? (Prov 23:1-6)

III. Coveting Defeated (Phil 4:10-13)

- **Trust** that God is in Control (4:10a)
"But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly!"
- **Appreciate** Others Highly (4:10b)
"...that now at last your care for me hath flourished again..."
- **Learn** Contentment in Circumstances (11-12)
"...for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content..."
- **Utilize** Christ's Strength (13)
"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

**"Coveting, The Silent Killer!"
(Exodus 20:17)**

Small Group Discussion Guide

Icebreaker: If you could have any material possession on loan to you for one week free of charge, what would it be? 😊

1. Share something from Sunday's message that challenged you.
2. Why is coveting sometimes called the "silent sin?" How is coveting at the root of other sins? Why do you think Paul equates it with "idolatry" in Colossians 3:5?
3. What are some things that we **SHOULD** covet with a strong desire and diligent effort?
4. Read and discuss Philippians 4:10-13. What keys to defeating covetousness does this passage give us? What are some practical things we can do to learn contentment?
5. Which one of the items on the "X-Ray" (from section II of the sermon) do you tend to struggle with the most? Grumbling? Envy? Worry? Fear? Preoccupied with possessions? Tight-fisted? Self Control? Ask someone to pray for victory in this area during group prayer time.

Digging Deeper

Read the following passages and jot down one or two principles for each regarding how to get the victory over coveting.

Matthew 6:19-24 –

Mark 10:17-22 –

Luke 12:13-21 –

Acts 20:33-35 –

Philippians 4:11-13 –

1 Timothy 6:6-10 –

For Next Week

We will take an objective look as to how Christ evaluates a local church, i.e., what is He looking for in a local church? Read Revelation 2-3 and consider the positive statements as well as the words of warning that Christ gives to the seven churches in these two chapters.

Take some time to pray for our pastor, deacons and church family by name. Pray that we will be a church family that please the Lord Jesus.