

Deut. 5:21-22 - Covetousness...The Kingpin of the Ten

Intro - We have come to the end of the 10. This is a complete list of the laws for life/love. Totality in 10 (fingers). The 10 are summed up in 2. Love for God (on one hand) & love for neighbor on the other. The 10 show us how to love. The giving of the 10 was our Lord's first Sermon on the Mount. Both Sermons on the Mount end with a repeated principle. I don't think you could say that the last ones are the most important ones, but they are repeated for emphasis. Covetousness is the Kingpin of the 10. 1-9 spell out specific actions (w/ attitudes only implied). But Rule #10 is explicit about desires and only implicit about our deeds. Rule #10 exposes the internal attitude and thoughts of the heart. It's the Kingpin because embracing #10 will lead you to break all 10. If you have felt unscathed with the first 9...#10 will get you (as is got Paul).

Definition	Description	Destruction	Solution
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DEFINITION of Covetousness

1. Covetousness is an internal desire. An internal musing that stirs external acting
 - a. God's word examines our insides - Heb. 4:12 Jesus knows our thoughts - Matt 9:4
2. Coveting involves comparing
 - a. You look at what God has given you compared to what He has given someone else
 - b. *"Comparison is the thief of joy"* T. Roosevelt (?)
3. Coveting is a desire for more.
 - a. You want what you don't have, and you are a little mad that others have it
 - b. Greed Avarice Envy
 - c. Coveting = an insatiable wanting Prov. 30:15 Eccles. 5:10 (NIV)
 - i. Psalm 23:1

DESCRIPTION of Covetousness

- The last commandment (like the last beatitude) is repeated for emphasis. 6 examples
 - All bases covered. Nothing is exempt from envy. Parameters for our *"wantee"*
- Don't covet your neighbors *RELATIONSHIP* His wife or her husband
 - "If I only had a spouse like...." "I wish that I had Jessie's girl..."
- Don't covet your neighbors *RESIDENCE* -
 - "They have how many bedrooms and bathrooms and closets?pool! :(
- Don't covet your neighbors *SUPLIMENTS* - land/grass greener (Naboth) James 4:2
- Don't covet your neighbors *SERVANTS* - business/employees/income/\$ & cents
- Don't covet your neighbors *IMPLEMENTS* - tractor/tools/toys/cars/trucks/bikes
- Don't covet ANY of your neighbors *PRESENTS* Anything that God has given them
 - I am to be content with what God has given me & happy for His gifts to others
 - Is there ever any coveting at Christmas? Luke 12:15 - NKJV
- Capitalism harnesses this sin as a catalyst for the economy (advertising/consumerism)
 - Socialism exploits this sin to spur disharmony (upset over unequal distribution)

The DESTRUCTION of Covetousness

- Sin breaks things. Sin always brings death and destruction. Coveting corrupts
 - The root of all kinds of evil
- This internal sin corrupts us internally envy rots the bones – Prov. 14:30 (NKJV)
 - We can become consumed with coveting. Gangrene with envy on insides
- Achan coveted & destroyed himself and his whole household (Josh. 7:19-26)
- Gehazi's greed got him some goods & some *goedemofus* (2 Kings 5:26-27)
- Coveting is destructive to faith Matt. 13:22 1 Tim 6:9-10
- Coveting is the Kingpin of the Commandments. The *ROOT* of all kinds of evil.
 - To embrace this one will lead you to break all of them.
 - Coveting will lead you lie to get what you want...to steal what God hasn't given ...to chase sexual pleasures outside marital parameters...envy leads to anger and hatred/murder. You will dishonor your parents in pursuit of what you covet. Not being content with God's provision can lead to misuse of His Day as well as His Name. Coveting will keep you from church and cause you to cuss. Wanting to add sight to faith can tempt us to make an image of the invisible God. Since coveting causes us serve what we want...our desires become our deity
 - Matt. 6:24 Covetousness is idolatry - Col. 3:5 Eph. 5:5
- Covetousness was in the heart of Judas (John 12:4-6; Matt 26:14-16)
 - A thief....mad at a waste of perfume on Jesus (twice)....sold for 30 pieces of silver
- Religious leaders handed Jesus over to Pilate because of envy. Mark 15:10
- Covetousness will keep you from heaven
 - Rich young ruler that Christ confronted with 2nd Table of law - love for neighbor
 - Matt. 19:22-26 embrace covetousness or Christ...but not both
 - 1 Cor. 6:10 Eph. 5:5

The SOLUTION to Covetousness

The cure for covetousness is contentment and conversion

1. CONTENTMENT

- a. Prov. 30:7-9 wise man wanted to keep Rule 9 &10
- b. Heb. 13:5 (Ps. 23:1)
- c. 1 Tim. 6:6-9
- d. Phil. 4:13 usually only quoted about having faith to win
 - i. Phil 4:11-13 (he had enough faith to fail or prevail)
- e. *"The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment"* great book but I am scared to read it

2. CONVERSION

- a. The purpose of the law is to show me my sin - (does it well)
 - i. The 10th really got Paul Rom. 7:7-8
- b. Sinners need a Savior. There is only ONE
- c. I need a change on the inside. The Spirit will make you born again.....new life
 - i. Take out the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.
- d. You can either continually covet sin or be eternally content in Christ ...converted