



LET'S DO IT GOD'S WAY "Forbidden Fruit" Exodus 20:17

No. 5528

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The tenth commandment differs from the other nine in that they deal specifically with actions, while it deals with an attitude—covetousness. But it is clear that actions originate with attitudes. See Genesis 3:6 and 1 Timothy 6:10

I. What Does Covetousness Mean?

- A. God-given desires.
 - 1. The desire to acquire.
 - 2. The desire to succeed.
 - 3. The desire to produce.
 - 4. The desire to progress.
- B. God-given delights.
 - 1. The delights of creation. Genesis 2:9
 - 2. The delights of love. Song of Songs 1:1-4
 - 3. The delights of truth. Psalm 19:10
 - 4. The delights of gifts. 1 Corinthians 12:31; 14:39
- C. God-given denials.
 - 1. Denying the right to desire excessively.
 - a. When need and greed become confused. Jeremiah 6:13; 8:10; Exodus 33:13-32
 - 2. Denying the right to desire illegitimately.
 - a. Some fruit is forbidden. Genesis 2:15-17
 - b. Some areas are off limits. Joshua 7:21
 - 3. Denying the right to desire exploitatively. 2 Peter 2:3
 - a. Viewing people as objects.
 - b. Using people for personal advantage.
 - 4. Denying the right to desire exclusively. Luke 12:13-21
 - a. When personal gain becomes all-important.
 - b. When all-important things become insignificant.
- D. What then is covetousness?
 - 1. The attitude that worships desire.
 - 2. The attitude that pursues delight.
 - 3. The attitude that denies denial.

II. What Does Covetousness Do?

- A. It leads to dishonesty and injustice.
 - 1. David and Bathsheba. 2 Samuel 11:1-27
 - 2. Jezebel and Naboth. 1 Kings 21:1-29
- B. It created insatiable demands.
 - 1. An inbuilt tendency. Mark 7:22
 - 2. An expanding economy.
 - 3. A calculated manipulation.
- C. It confuses moral judgment.
 - 1. An idol of personal gain. Ephesians 5:3-5
 - 2. A deifying of material things. Luke 16:14
 - 3. A worshipping of self at expense of others. 2 Timothy 3:2

III. What Should We Do About Covetousness?

- A. We need to adjust our lifestyle.
 - 1. The joy of sharing.
 - 2. The peace of contentment. Hebrews 13:5