

The Tenth Commandment

The Ten Commandments outline God's Will concerning our relationship with the LORD, with one another and, in this final commandment, with ourselves. They encompass the totality of life and align us with the absolute Truth of God. This tenth Commandment speaks to our innermost thoughts and passions, an area hidden from others, but open to the omniscient gaze of the Deity. It is last, but not least, for in our hearts is birthed the evil acts that violate the commands of God. The man or woman who will harness their lusts will be a disciple in whom God's Spirit has full reign, and through whom God's will is realized.

"You shall not covet your neighbor's house;
you shall not covet your neighbor's wife or
his male servant or his female servant or
his ox or his donkey or
anything that belongs to your neighbor."

Exodus 20:17

- Circle all the things we are not to covet.

Why should we not covet things that are not ours? _____

Biblical Examples

The Bible provides several examples of how covetousness leads to disaster. It always starts with an innocent glance, but evolves into an ever darker downward spiral of immoral actions.

When the woman saw that the tree was good for food,
and that it was a delight to the eyes,
and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise,
she took from its fruit and ate;
and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

Genesis 3:6

- Underline the first thing the woman did.
- Circle what she saw and believed.
- Underline the second thing the woman did.
- Underline the third thing she did.

Explain how covetousness worked in Eve's life. _____



The Deception

When you study the account of the first sin in Genesis 3:1-7, you will notice that:

1. Eve **misunderstood God's Word** (compare Genesis 2:17 to 3:3). She added the condition of 'touch'.
2. Satan tempted her to **doubt God's Word**. Genesis 3:1,4-5)
3. Eve **believed satan** instead of God, **disobeyed God's Word** and gave in to the temptation (Genesis 3:6).

Sin in the Camp

After their great victory at Jericho, the invading Israeli nation marched on to the smaller city of Ai in Canaan, confident that God would give them victory again. After a resounding defeat, the problem was traced to the sin of one of their members who gave in to temptation and defied the command of Joshua. The guilty man's confession reveals much about the dangers of coveting.

- 20 So Achan answered Joshua and said,
"Truly, I have sinned against the LORD, the God of Israel,
and this is what I did:
21 when I saw among the spoil a beautiful mantle from Shinar
and two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold fifty shekels in weight,
then I coveted them and took them;
and behold,
they are concealed in the earth inside my tent with the silver underneath it."

Joshua 7:20-21

- Underline the first thing Achan did.
- Circle the actions that followed.

No One Immune

From the following account, it can never be said that the Bible paints a rosy picture of its heroes. Even the great King David was not immune to the enticements of the flesh.

- 2 Now when evening came
David arose from his bed and walked around on the roof of the king's house,
and from the roof he saw a woman bathing;
and the woman was very beautiful in appearance.
3 So David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said,
"Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam,
the wife of Uriah the Hittite?"
4 David sent messengers and took her,
and when she came to him, he lay with her;
and when she had purified herself from her uncleanness,
she returned to her house.

2 Samuel 11:2-4

- Underline what David did from the roof of his house. (v 2)
- Circle what he did after this (v 3)
- Underline who this woman was. (v 3)
- Circle what he did with her. (v 4)

In both instances (Achan & King David), what should they have done after they saw

what was forbidden? _____



Proverbs 6:25-26

Determine What Your Eyes are Allowed to See

In all three examples, problems began with the lust of the eyes. Though you can't always control what you see, you can control what you do next! It is imperative that you decide what you are going to do **before** the temptation hits. It may be too late if you are enticed during a time of emotional or physical weakness when your ability to resist may be impaired. Consider making the following commitments to guard yourself before satan springs his traps.

"I have made a covenant with my eyes;
How then could I gaze at a virgin?"

Job 31:1

- Underline what Job made.

What kind of covenant did Job make with his eyes? _____

- 25 Let your eyes look directly ahead
And let your gaze be fixed straight in front of you.
- 26 Watch the path of your feet
And all your ways will be established.
- 27 Do not turn to the right nor to the left;
Turn your foot from evil.

Proverbs 4:25-27

- Circle where your eyes should look.
- Underline what you should watch.
- Underline where you should not turn.

What is the point of this Proverb? _____

How does preparing ahead of time help you during the time of temptation? _____



My Covenant

When tempted,
I pledge to keep my eyes from evil and
to walk away from things displeasing to God.

Signed _____

Covet the Eternal

- 15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world.
If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
- 16 For all that is in the world,
the lust of the flesh and
the lust of the eyes and
the boastful pride of life,
is not from the Father, but is from the world.
- 17 The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts;
but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

1 John 2:15-17

- Underline what we are not to love.
- Circle what is not in anyone who loves the world.
- Underline what is in the world.
- Circle what is passing away.
- Underline who lives forever.

Why should we not covet the things in the world? _____

"For what does it profit a man
to gain the whole world,
and forfeit his soul?"

Mark 8:36



Ending Covetousness

6 But *godliness* *actually* is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment.

7 For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either.

8 If we have food and covering, *with these we shall be content.*

9 But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.

10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and *some* by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

1 Timothy 6:6-10

