

The Myth of More Notes

Exodus 20:17

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Main Point: The key to not coveting what others have is to be content with what you already have.

Definition

1. The positive meaning is a “strong desire or _____.”
2. The negative meaning refers to “An excessively strong desire to have something that _____ to someone else.”
3. It also means, “To _____ for more; an inordinate, uncontrolled, selfish desire so strong that it compels someone to violate another person’s property.”
4. One pastor says, “An overt _____ and discontent with what God has provided and a longing desire for what He has forbidden.”
5. Whether a desire is good or not depends on the object of the desire.
 - Good desires – The word “covet” is used in Genesis 2:9 to describe the trees in Eden as _____ or “pleasant to the sight” and is used to describe God’s Word in Psalm 19:10.
 - Bad desires – The negative is used in Genesis 3:6 when Eve found the tree “to be _____” and in Proverbs 21:25-26.

Characteristics of Coveting

1. Coveting hits close to _____ – it’s those things we see with our neighbors every day which are so alluring and enticing.
2. Coveting is _____ forbidden – This double negation is found only in this commandment Ephesians 5:3 underscores it.
3. The command against coveting is very _____.
 - _____ – The word for “house” can refer to a neighbor’s dwelling, the furnishings inside, and the land surrounding it.
 - _____
 - _____
 - Or _____ that is your neighbors.
4. This command is _____ – there is no law that criminalizes coveting.
5. Coveting is an invisible sin – The other commandments, except the first one, deal with deeds, while the last one depicts our _____.
6. The prohibition against coveting may be the most often broken commandment (Romans 7:7-8).
7. Coveting is the _____ of all other sins
 - At the root of every sin is the belief _____ has somehow not given us everything we think we need (Colossians 3:5).
8. Coveting comes with a _____ – sinful deeds start with sinful desires (James 4:2).

Diagnosing Discontentment

1. If you’re not satisfied with what you have now, you _____ be satisfied should you get what you’re wishing you had.
2. Six clues to see if you have a coveting attitude.
 - When you do a lot of grumbling and _____ (1 Corinthians 10:10).
 - When you become _____ of what others have (2 Corinthians 12:20).
 - When you have a preoccupation with your _____ (Luke 12:16-21).

- When you become _____ with what God has given you (Proverbs 28:22).
- When God is getting your _____ (Malachi 1:6-14).
- When you love things and use _____ rather than using things and loving people (Romans 13:8-10).

The Cure for Coveting

1. The cure for coveting is to learn the _____ of contentment as found in Philippians 4:11-13).
 - The word “secret” means to be _____.
 - Paul _____ to be content “in any and every circumstance,” whether he had a lot or he had little.
 - The phrase, “have learned” means to discover by _____ and to enter a new condition.
2. God has so ordered the world and your personal circumstances that no matter what situation you are in right now, you have _____ you truly need to be content.
3. It is a _____ that you always need more.
 - Contentment means wanting what _____ wants for us rather than what we want for us. – *Philip Ryken*
 - Our deepest _____ can only come from God, not from a change in our circumstances.
 - Philippians 4:13 means “I can be content in whatever circumstance I’m in because of the _____ work of Christ in my life.
 - Once you see the beauty of Jesus and allow Him to be your full satisfaction, knowing He will never _____ you, there’s nothing more you need (Hebrews 13:5).
4. When I constantly covet what I don’t have, I’m saying I’m not _____ in the provision of Christ.
5. Unless Jesus is _____, you’ll never have enough!
 - The reason many of us are discontent is we really don’t _____ Jesus is enough.

A Contentment Course Correction

1. Guard your _____ (Proverbs 4:23).
 - Some of us need to have our needs _____ not our possessions increased.
2. Admit that places, possessions, or people won’t ultimately _____ (Ecclesiastes 5:10)
 - When contemplating the purchase of another possession, ask yourself this question: “Is this a need or a _____?”
3. _____ your way out of covetousness (Acts 20:22-25).
4. Earnestly _____ Jesus Christ (Matthew 6:33).