

“The Path to Contentment”

Exodus 20:17

The Tenth Commandment... This last commandment is unique from the other nine because it does not prescribe outward actions but deals directly with the inward desires of the heart. Namely, it demands that we not jealously desire the possessions of others. This reminds us that with all of the commandments, God is concerned with the attitudes of our hearts and not just outward actions.

The Folly of Coveting... The Scripture teaches that the things we covetously desire function as our gods or idols (Col. 3:5). While these gods promise to make us happy and content, they actually enslave us and leave us dissatisfied and discontent.

Finding Contentment... The opposite of coveting is contentment, a state of mind that the whole world is trying to find. Ironically, one of the world’s most content men was the Apostle Paul who suffered more than most. He found that the true path to contentment is in having a real relationship with Jesus Christ (Phil. 4:11-13 & 3:8-9)!

Questions for Reflection:

- 1.** How does the tenth commandment differ from the other nine?
- 2.** How are you tempted to covet? Why is this primarily a spiritual problem?
- 3.** Are you a contented person? Is the Lord the source of your contentment?