

I Want What You Have

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DISCUSS

In this achievement culture we live in, we are never satisfied, we want what others have, and we think that everyone in the world has the same desires we do. This is the sin of coveting, an act so sinister that can lead to the destruction of our lives. Here are important principles to help you identify and deal with covetousness in your life.

#1: We covet to satisfy our sinful desires

- What could be the reason why NOT coveting or lusting after what belongs to others is an important part of the Ten Commandments of God to His people?
- What is the root issue of covetousness according to Matthew 15:19?
- What are the three specific areas the Lord describes you are not to covet in Exodus 20:17? What are the dangers you are treading if you covet these things?

#2: The solution for covetousness is contentment

- Do you struggle with covetousness? How do you deal with it?
- What is contentment? Give examples of how people are so discontent or dissatisfied with their lives.
- Can contentment be learned (Philippians 4:11-13)? How did the apostle Paul learn how to be content?
- Why is the comparison game the opposite of contentment? How would learning to compare down instead of to compare up a good way to deal with comparison.
- Why does contentment happen when you trust God?

#3: View desires and contentment through Christ-centered lenses

- Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10. How could you gain great spiritual wealth according to this passage?
- Aside from the essentials of food and clothing, what more do you want and why? Why do you want what you want?
- Why is your motive of having what you want an important issue to deal with (v. 9-10)?
- Does God owe you anything? What's the perfect gift that He has already blessed you with?
- What other way could you learn to be content according to 1 Thessalonians 5:18?

REFLECT

2 Timothy 3:2 warns us that in the last days, men will be covetous (love of things), rather than lovers of God, so we need to be careful and remember the three biblical principles about covetousness. Examine yourself: Do you have the desire to be in a closer relationship with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who has given of Himself, so that you can be fully satisfied in Him?

PRAY

Heavenly Father, I find it difficult to be content because of the many tempting things around me, but thank You that through Your Son, my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I can enjoy a contented life. What would be better than being guaranteed of my salvation and eternal life, confident of my purpose and victory, and assured that my daily needs are met? I can enjoy all those because of Christ—praise You, Father. May I consistently view desires and contentment through Christ-centered lenses. In His precious name I pray. Amen.