

Introduction: Private thoughts / consuming passions

- More is never enough
- “When ... then...” thinking
- Success: How I’m doing compared to...

The Bible calls this _____

- Meaning -
- Definition -
- Command – *You shall not covet ... anything that belongs to your neighbor.*

Exodus 20:17 (NIV)

Five symptoms that tell us “consuming passions” are robbing our joy:

1. _____

Do not wear yourself out to be rich; have the wisdom to show restraint.

Proverbs 23:4 (NIV)

2. _____

The more money you make, the more money you spend...

Ecclesiastes 5:11 (LB)

3. _____

A working man... can get a good night's sleep. But a rich man has so much that he stays awake worrying.

Ecclesiastes 5:12 (GNB)

4. _____

What causes conflicts and quarrels among you? Don't they come from the desires that battle with you?

James 4:1(NIV & NASB)

5. _____

You will never be satisfied if you long to be rich. You will never get all you want.

Ecclesiastes 5:10 (GNB)

At the core of the 10th Command is God's desire for your contentment and purity

Three keys to contentment:

I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.

Philippians 4:12 (NIV)

1. _____ comparing myself with others.

For we are not bold to class or compare ourselves with some of those who commend themselves; but when they measure themselves by themselves, and compare themselves with themselves, they are without understanding.

2 Corinthians 10:12 (NASB)

2. _____ and _____ in what I do have.

If God gives a man wealth and property and lets him enjoy them, he should be grateful and enjoy what he has worked for. It is a gift from God.

Ecclesiastes 5:19 (GNB)

Do all things without grumbling or disputing; that you may prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world...

Philippians 2:14-15 (NASB)

Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)

3. _____ what I have to help others.

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way, they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NIV)

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to covet? How is this command's focus different than the other nine?

2. What false beliefs drive us to covet our neighbor's stuff?

3. What impact does coveting have in our lives, health, and relationships?

4. Which of the 3 principles to learn contentment do you most need to practice? Why?

5. How has this study of the Ten Commandments impacted you:
 - a) View of God?
 - b) Personal relationships
 - c) Personal holiness?