

## Discussion Questions: Living in Freedom 10<sup>th</sup> Commandment: Do Not Covet - Exodus 20:17

Drawn from the March 16, 2025 sermon by Dr. Jeff Chandler

Opener: How do you distinguish between admiring something that belongs to someone else and coveting?

### Read Exodus 20:17 (New Living Translation)

*"You must not covet your neighbor's house. You must not covet your neighbor's wife, male or female servant, ox or donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor."*

1. Why do you think this commandment is placed last?
2. Why do you think God includes specific examples in this particular commandment?

### I. What is coveting?

Coveting is the uncontrolled desire to acquire. In our culture we value reward and material accumulation. It's hard for people to be content with what they have.

### Read Hebrews 13:5 (New International Version)

*Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."*

3. Some people have a greater desire to acquire because of insecurity. How does knowing that God is with you help you remain more free in this area?

## II. Why is coveting wrong?

### Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10 (New Living Translation)

*True godliness with contentment is itself great wealth. After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can't take anything with us when we leave it. So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content. But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.*

4. Has the desire to have more ever caused you grief? In what way?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. How would you define godliness with contentment? How are you trying to pursue it?

## III. Working from wrong to the right

### Read Philippians 4:11-13 (New Living Translation)

*Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.*

To have contentment in Christ requires four decisions about the events and possessions of our life.

- a. We must focus on what God has already allowed us to have.
  - b. We must disregard what we do not have.
  - c. We must refuse to covet what others may have.
  - d. We must give thanks to God for each and all of his gifts.
6. How have you seen gratitude act as an antidote against covetousness?

**Group Prayer time:** In this session we have made some practical suggestions on how to bridle in the desire to acquire that permeates our culture. Ask people to share something they would like to focus on in “the four decisions about contentment.” Pray for any other needs as well.

## **For reflection in the group or on your own**

**Where your treasure is your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:21)**

**Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19** (New Living Translation)

*Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.*

How does cheerful giving help us to trust in God more than money? How has that worked practically for you?

**Read 2 Corinthians 4:18** (New International Version)

*We fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*

This passage begs the question, “What am I really living for?” Is the primary goal of my life just to get more?

What are the eternal things that help you keep perspective and give you purpose in life?

**Next week, March 23, pastor Jeff will begin a new five part series called “Jesus Revealed” covering Mark 11 through 16. There will be discussion questions available at [www.sequimcommunitychurch.org/downloads](http://www.sequimcommunitychurch.org/downloads)**