



# Covetousness

# 10<sup>th</sup> Commandment

EXODUS 20:17

# Is It Really That Serious?



- ▶ How did **covetousness** find a place in the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai given by God, right along with murder, adultery, and idolatry? Is covetousness really that destructive?
- ▶ And **why** do people covet their neighbour's stuff anyway? Is it jealousy, or lust, or something else?
- ▶ If covetousness is truly dangerous, **how** do we live a life without the burden of covetousness?

# Why Covetousness is Dangerous?



- ▶ Note: the 10<sup>th</sup> commandment is just one commandment, not 2 separated commandments, as the Catholic church believes
- ▶ Covetousness **robs** us from our ability (joy) to **enjoy** the blessings from God. (ill: commercials)
- ▶ It also leads us to **anxious** thoughts (Matt. 6:31-32)
- ▶ It pulls us **away** from God (1 John 2:15-17)
- ▶ Moreover, covetousness can lead to other sins...

# Why is Covetousness Dangerous?



- ▶ Covetousness is the outcome of a **flawed mindset**, created by a false view of God (Luke 12:29-30) and His  **blessings** (Eph. 1:3), followed by a wrong conclusion of living in a world of scarcity (Luke 12:13-15), plus a wrong reliance on “stuff” in general (Matt. 6:19-21)
- ▶ The sad truth is that many people’s **identity** is based upon the “stuff” that they drive, wear, or reside in. Somehow, he or she is “less” as a person compared to their neighbours (Luke 12:15)

*I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the **SECRET** of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. (Phil. 4:12)*

- ▶ The secret there is **contentment** (v.11)—be content with the things that we already have.
- ▶ True contentment is a great place to be in: both **wealth** and **poverty** will not be our enemies, rather be in a place to **enjoy** all the blessings that God has given us.



# What is Contentment?

- ▶ Contentment is a person that has a proper **understanding** of God's **character** (Heb. 13:5-6)
- ▶ Contentment is a person that has a proper **understanding** of the true nature of "**stuff**" (Psalm 102:25-27; James 1:9-10; Luke 12:15)
- ▶ Contentment is a person that has a clear **understanding** of what is worth **pursuing** (1 Tim. 6:6-10; Matt. 6:32-33) (notice: all about **understanding**)
- ▶ Contentment is **thanksgiving** (Eph. 5:20; Phil. 4:6-7)



# What Contentment is Not

- ▶ It is not a matter of **money**—both the rich and poor get discontent. (Prov. 30:7-9)
- ▶ It is not a matter of **ambition**—one can desire excellence and still be fully content at the same time (Eccl. 9:10; Col. 3:23) (ill: glass)
- ▶ It is not a matter of **success** (accomplishment)
- ▶ It is not a matter of **taste** (class)—a person can know what is “best” and still enjoy what is “good”



# Reflection

- ▶ Do you often **compare** yourself with others? Do you have a sense of **emptiness** seeing other people's "success"?
- ▶ Are you **thankful** with your current circumstances? Do you have enough **faith** to be thankful? (Phil. 4:6-7; 19; Eph. 5:20)
- ▶ (Phil. 4:11-13; Eph. 1:3) Do you trust that God's **blessings** are good enough?
- ▶ What are you **pursuing** these days? (Phil. 3:8)

