

BAHRAIN REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

C10: Contentment (Exodus 20:17)

May 16, 2024

Preliminary

[WSC, Q:80] - What is required in the tenth commandment?"

Answer: *The tenth commandment requires full contentment with our own condition, with a right and charitable frame of spirit toward our neighbor, and all that is his."*

Hebrews 13:5 = *Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you*

Note: C10 is unique among all the commandments, because it deals with a sin that takes place *only* in the heart.

Definition: Covet = to crave, to yearn for, to hanker after something that belongs to someone else.

➤ We covet whenever we set our hearts on anything that is not rightfully ours.

[John Mackay, *Exodus*, 354] – “a consuming desire to possess in a wrong way something belonging to another”

[Thomas Watson] – “... an insatiable desire of getting the world.”

➤ Hebrew: תַּאֲוָה (*taavah*) / covet = desire(s)

• Note: There are good desires and there are evil desires

➤ Covetousness comes from within, out of our heart... Mk 7:21-23

➤ It is selfish desire, indicating a basic discontent with what we already have... Lk 12:15

Point: Covetousness is an aspect of loving the things in the world... 1 Jn 2:15-17

1. The extent of the sin of discontentment

Note: It prompted usually what our eyes see upon which they choose to focus...

➤ Gen 3:6 = Before Eve took the forbidden fruit, she coveted it

➤ 2 Samuel 11 = David's grievous sin began with the lust of the eye

Point: Not being content with what God has given you causes greed and other serious sins

➤ It involves the sins of ingratitude and unthankfulness against God for the blessings He has given you.

➤ It is an offense against His sovereign Providence.

➤ It is through covetousness that we often break all the commandments of God

(a) It leads to idolatry

➤ Worship a false God... it gains the place that God alone should have in our life... Eph 5:5; Col 3:5

(b) It is able to steal the day of worshiping the Lord... Neh 13:15ff

(c) It leads to not providing for and honoring our parents... Mk 7:10-12

(d) It leads to murder... Pro 1:18, 19; Js 4:1, 2a

(e) It leads to adultery... 2 Sam 11:2-5; 12:8-10

(f) It leads to theft... Josh 7:21; Act 5:1-10

(g) It leads to lying... Act 5:1-10; 1 King 21

(h) It leads to false testimony against neighbors... Acts 16:16-24

(i) It is the causes of fight/wars... James 4:1-3

2. Keys to overcome the sin of covetousness

Note: Covetous thoughts spring easily from our sin-ruined hearts because we live in a society that is intent on capitalizing on the sin of covetousness... i.e., Social Media

Point: We must learn to have self-control over ourselves

➤ The Commandment teaches us to be content with thankfulness what God has given to us.

(a) We need self-awareness and self-examination

Ask ourselves: Am I coveting?" "What am I coveting?" and, "Why am I coveting this?"

(b) We need to make a conscious effort to limit occasions for coveting, and come up with strategies for checking evil desires... come up with schemes to combat it.

(c) We need to determine to be happy in every circumstance, to be content with what we have.

(d) We need to fix our desires on wholesome and lawful objects... 1 Cor 12:31

(e) Faith is necessary to combat covetousness – we have to trust God's providence.

(f) We need to pray for God's grace.

(g) We have to cultivate love

(h) The willingness to work honestly for our living... Act 20:33-35

(i) The awareness that our Heavenly Father knows our needs and supplies what is best for us... Mt 6:31-33

Challenges:

Note: Covetousness are Satan's tools to distract us from pursuing the only thing that will ever make us content – God Himself

➤ Seeking after Christ is an enterprise unlike any other, it never disappoints. His beauty, loveliness, comfort, peace, and joy surpass all this world has to offer.

***Contentment is one of those rare jewels,
once found and treasured it fills the soul with delight.***