**Ten Commandments Series August 29, 2021**

*The Tenth Commandment*

Exodus 20:17   
You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Covet

* Inordinate, ungoverned, **selfish desire**(Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew Lexicon)
* **Strongly desire** another’s possessions  
  (Dictionary of Biblical Languages)
* Genesis 3:6   
  When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also **desirable** for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.
* Uncontrolled desire of neighbors:
  + House
  + Wife
  + Servant, male or female
  + Ox or donkey
  + Anything else that belongs to your neighbor

Coveting Houses

* The physical location / residence but also the **family** that occupies it, making the house a home

Coveting a Wife (or husband)

* **Lustful thoughts**, feelings and desires for another person’s spouse that create fantasies and even action that may result in adultery

Coveting the capacity to earn money

* Servants, oxen, and donkeys were a primary way that many people **earned a living**
  + Today it would be to desire someone else’s equipment that enables them to make a living

Coveting is sourced in the **heart**

* Mark 7:21–22   
  21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, 22 deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness.

Coveting is **eternally damning**

* Ephesians 5:5   
  For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

**What does this mean for me?**

* Be **content** with that which God has given you
  + 1 Timothy 6:6–8   
    6 But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. 8 But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.
* Guard your **heart and mind** against intense desire
  + Luke 12:15   
    Then he [Jesus] said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”
* **Be thankful** for that which God has given you and enjoy His provision
  + 1 Thessalonians 5:18   
    In everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.
* The law is for us and for our **good**
  + It is there to draw us to the Lord where we receive eternal life and forgiveness by grace through faith
  + John 1:17   
    For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.

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