

TENTH WORD OF GRACE:
LEARNING TO BE CONTENT
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.”
Exodus 20.17

WHAT IS COVETING?

Covetousness is a desire, accompanied by some scheming, to acquire someone or something that rightfully belongs to another. It is rooted in our failure to accept ourselves as we have been created and our restlessness to be and have something else, to play God for ourselves. It is an uncontrolled desire to acquire. It is hard, in our culture, to want to be content with what we have. But, unless we learn contentment there are so many potential pitfalls.

“Do not wear yourself out to get rich, have the wisdom to show restraint.” Proverbs 23.4

*“As goods increase, so do those who consume them.
And what benefit are they to the owner except to feast his eyes on them?”*
Ecclesiastes 5.11

*“The sleep of a laborer is sweet, whether he eats little or much,
but the abundance of a rich man permits him no sleep.”* Ecclesiastes 5.12

“What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from the desires that battle within you?” James 4.1

*“Whoever loves money never has money enough;
whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income.”* Ecclesiastes 5.10

WHAT IS THE ANTIDOTE TO COVETING?

*“I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. **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. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.”* Philippians 4.12

WHAT ARE SOME WAYS IN WHICH I CAN LEARN CONTENTMENT?

“We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise.”
2 Corinthians 10.12

“People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.” 1 Timothy 6.9-10

“Moreover, when God gives any man wealth and possessions, and enables him to enjoy them, to accept his lot and be happy in his work – this is a gift of God. He seldom reflects on the days of his life, because God keeps him occupied with gladness of heart.” Ecclesiastes 5.19

*“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

“So 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.” 2 Corinthians 4.18

“Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” Luke 12.15