

Ten Commandments (Part 65)
(The 10th Commandment – Part 2)

Exodus 20:17: “*You shall not covet.*”

I. The Proper Enumeration of the 10th Commandment

-v. 17 contains one commandment, not two

II. The Prohibitions and Requirements of the 10th Commandment

-Prohibitions: The 10th Commandment forbids lust, greed, envy, resentment, and discontent.

-Requirements: The 10th Commandment requires contentment and gratitude.

III. The Spiritual Nature of the 10th Commandment

-The 10th Commandment is concerned with inward dispositions, not outward actions.

IV. A Biblical Explanation of the 10th Commandment

-Basic Meaning: it prohibits setting one’s desire on things (Ex. 20:17; Deut. 5:21; Matt. 6:19, 2, 31-34; Luke 12:14-21; Rom; 7:7; 13:9; Eph. 5:5; Col. 3:5)

-Universal Scope: “anything” (Ex. 20:17; Deut. 5:21); “that is your neighbor’s” = anybody (Ex. 20:16; Deut. 5:20; Luke 10:25-37) See also Gen. 4:7; Prov. 23:4, 5; Hab. 1:6; James 1:14, 15; 4:1, 2.

-Positive Implication (Ps. 73:25; Phil. 4:11, 13; 1 Tim. 6:6-8)

Practical Lessons

1) Greed and covetousness are a bottomless pit (Ecc. 1:8; 5:10).

2) Believers should praise, thank, and worship God for their deliverance (1 Pet. 2:24; 2 Pet. 1:4).

3) Jesus is all we need (Rom. 8:32; Heb. 13:5).