

"The Tenth Commandment"

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I gave a presentation titled "The Tenth Commandment." Following are some of the scriptures that I read.

Grace and expectations

Exodus 20:2—"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."

Exodus 20:17—"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."

Seven concepts

In the Bible-study presentation, I organized my material into seven concepts. In this article, I will refer to those seven different concepts.

Hebrew word

The English word "covet" in Exodus 20:17 is the Hebrew word "hamad" (Strong's #2530). It is a verb meaning "to covet, desire or lust."

The Hebrew word "hamad" is not always used in a negative setting.

- Genesis 2:9—God made every tree "pleasant" to the sight.
- Genesis 3:6—A tree to be "desired" to make one wise.
- Isaiah 53:2—When people would see the beaten Messiah, there would be no beauty that they should "desire" Him.

Here are examples where the word is used as "coveting."

- Joshua 7:21—Achan saw the items and coveted them.

- Micah 2:2—Evil people covet fields and take them by violence.

Here is an example where the word is used as “desire.”

- Deuteronomy 7:25—They were instructed to burn the graven images of the false gods and not to “desire” the silver or gold that was on them.

Here is an example where the word is used as lust.

- Proverbs 6:25—When talking about an evil woman, the author taught to “lust not” after her beauty in your heart.

Not all desires are bad

- Matthew 6:33—Seek first the Kingdom of God.
- 1 Corinthians 12:31—Covet earnestly the best gifts.
- 1 Corinthians 14:39—Covet to prophesy (correctly).
- Jeremiah 9:23-24—Seeking wisdom, might and riches are good goals, as long as we prioritize a relationship with the Lord.
- 1 Corinthians 1:26-31—Seeking wisdom, might and nobility are good, as long as we prioritize a relationship with the Lord.
- 1 Corinthians 7:1-5—It is good to seek a proper sexual relationship.
- Ephesians 4:26-27—It is good to seek a proper use of anger.
- 1 Timothy 5:23—It is good to seek a proper use of alcohol.

God created people susceptible to lust

- Psalm 81:12—God gave people over to their own stubborn heart.
- Romans 1:24-29—God gave people over to their own uncleanness, lusts of their hearts, vile passions, debased minds and other sinful traits.
- Mark 4:19—The parable of the sower mentioned three characteristics—cares of this life, deceitfulness of riches and desires of this life.
- 1 John 2:16-17—John mentioned three lustful qualities in the world that

are not from the Father—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life.

Devil is a bad influence

- John 8:44—People follow the desires of the devil.
- Ephesians 2:2-3—The prince of the power of the air stirs up the lusts of our flesh.

Disciples over past lusts

- Romans 6:3-11—In baptism the "old man" was crucified, and disciples seek to walk in newness of life.
- Ephesians 4:22—Disciples seek to put off the "old man," which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts.
- Titus 3:3—We previously served different lusts and pleasures.
- 1 Peter 1:14—We should not conform to former lusts in our ignorance.

Coveting is a trigger

- Matthew 5:27-28—If we have lust in our heart, we have already committed adultery.
- James 1:14-15—Each person is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. When desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin.

Pattern of sin

- Genesis 3:6—Saw, desired and took.
- Joshua 7:21—Saw, desired and took.
- 2 Samuel 11:2-4—Saw, inquired and slept with her.
- Acts 8:18-19—Saw, wanted power and offered money.