

You should not Covet



TENTH of the 10 Commandments

Amanda Buys' Spiritual Covering

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¹ Meaning: The ANOINTED one

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You should not Covet

It is the **10th Commandment** and found in ...

Exodus 20.17 *“You shall not **covet** your neighbour’s house; you shall not covet your neighbour’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbour’s.”*

The Hebrew word for “covet” is Strong’s 2530

chamad	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• to strongly desire• to lust after• to take pleasure in• to delight in something greatly
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With these meaning as background, we can turn to the first example of coveting/desiring/lusting after in the Bible.

We find that in the story of Eve desiring the “apple” - in reality desiring the right to be like God.

If we consider the event in detail we realize the following process;

- ◆ We **desire** something which we cannot have
 - ◆ We **fantasize** over the thing that we don’t have
 - ◆ We **decide** that we want that which we cannot have
 - ◆ We **commit an evil act** to take that which we should not take and if we don’t commit that evil act, then **we revert to punishing those who are successful** - by breaking them down, by gossiping about them, by pointing out all their faults

Genesis 3:6 *“So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.*

Critically look at the consequence of the covet;

- desire
- want
- evil act

It says ... **they were naked (Hebrew H5903)**.

We tend to think that it is all about the lack of clothes (the fig leaves), the skin which God gives.

However, this word “naked” is ...

erom	Naked, but better described as ... <ul style="list-style-type: none">• an enemy that has captured you,• stropped you naked• and has you under careful scrutiny
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James sums up the **path of covet to eventual evil** as follows (**we end up being the enemy of God**) ...

James 4:2-4 *“You desire and do not have, so you murder. **You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel.** You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. You adulterous people! **Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.**”*

(1) Coveting leads to theft / stealing

We remember the story of Ahab who covets another mans vineyard and whose wife, Jezebel, will conspire with false witness to lay charges against a Godly man and cause him to lose his inheritance and legacy ... his part of the land given to him by God.

1 Kings 21:1-4 *“Now Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard in Jezreel, beside the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. And after this Ahab said to Naboth, “Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near my house, and I will give you a better vineyard for it; or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its value in money.” But Naboth said to Ahab, “**The LORD forbid that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers.**” And Ahab went into his house vexed and sullen because of what Naboth the Jezreelite had said to him, for he had said, “I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers.” And he lay down on his bed and turned away his face and would eat no food.*

1 Kings 21:5-7 *But **Jezebel his wife** came to him and said to him, “Why is your spirit so vexed that you eat no food?” And he said to her, “Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite and said to him, ‘Give me your vineyard for money, or else, if it please you, I will give you another vineyard for it.’ And he answered, ‘I will not give you my vineyard.’” And Jezebel his wife said to him, “Do you now govern Israel? Arise and eat bread and let your heart be cheerful; **I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite**”*

(2) Coveting leads to murder

In the famous story of David (who should be on the battlefield) who covert Bathsheba, will go on to have her husband killed we see the progress of the sin which starts off by David’s desire.

2 Samuel 11:1 *“In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel. And they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. **But David remained at Jerusalem.**”*

2 Samuel 11:2-4 *It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king’s house, that **he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful. And David sent and inquired about the woman.** And one said, “Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of mUriah the Hittite?” So David sent messengers **and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her.** (Now she had been purifying herself from her uncleanness.) Then she returned to her house.”*

(3) Coveting leads to idol worship

Joshua is bust making war against the Canaanites - he has already defeated the people of Jericho. Now he will go on with the next king / city which must be defeated. However, he will get a shock when his army his defeated.

In the introspection with God, he finds out that ACHAN has appropriated idols that he found in the ruins.

Joshua 7:11-12 *“Israel has sinned; they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them (to keep). They have **even taken some of the things under the ban, and they have both stolen and denied (the theft).** Moreover, they have **also put the stolen objects among their own things.** That is why the (soldiers of Israel could not stand (and defend themselves) before their enemies; they turned their backs (and ran) before them, because they have become accursed. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy the things under the ban from among you.”*

Paul spells out this **process of desire that leads to idolatry.**

Colossians 3:5-6 *“Put to death therefore what is earthly in you **sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.** On account of these the wrath of God is coming.”*

Ephesians 5:5-6 *“For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.”*

(4) Coveting money will lead to all kinds of evil

Coveting money ...

- opens the door to theft,
- to illegal transactions
- to bribery and corruption
- a never ending chase after more and more gold.

Unfortunately, those who engage in this type of behaviour seldom think of the consequences ... and here I am not talking about themselves, BUT about the pensioners / widows and others who have been sucked into devious deals and are now destitute.

1 Timothy 6:10 *“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.*”

1 Timothy 6:11 *But as for you, O man of God, flee these things.”*

Deuteronomy 7:25-26 *“The carved images of their gods you shall burn with fire. **You shall not covet the silver or the gold that is on them or take it for yourselves, lest you be ensnared by it, for it is an abomination to the LORD your God. And you shall not bring an abominable thing into your house and become devoted to destruction like it. You shall utterly detest and abhor it, for it is devoted to destruction.**”*

(5) Coveting leads to broken relationships

Any relationship, outside of a covenantal marriage will be doomed to failure and will lead to broken relationships around every corner.

All you need to do, is conduct marriage counselling to a broken marriage and see the devastation in the hearts of the children, to understand what coveting someone else wife can do to people.

James 4:2-4 *“You desire and do not have, so you murder. **You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. You adulterous people!**3 Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”*

Proverbs 6:25-26 *“Do not desire her beauty in your heart, and do not let her capture you with her eyelashes; for the price of a prostitute is only a loaf of bread, but a married woman hunts down a precious life.”*

God's Calling

We are mandated to work ... to produce a harvest - not merely in the physical. But more so in the spiritual (a harvest of good works), of loving our neighbour.

Hard work produces a reward. We must show GRATITUDE towards God for the rain (opportunities) that come our way.

What we should be doing is asking God for the insight and wisdom to see those opportunities and for the courage to move forward when we get them.

How should we live?

A. Be in control

Know that God is in control - that we must be patient and be expectant that our own covenantal promises will come to pass. While we are anxious and in a hurry - consider Abraham and how long he waited to the son of promise to be born.

Also consider the consequences that plague Abraham people today because he took matters into his own hands.

Philippians 4:11-13 "Not that I am speaking of being in need, **for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.** I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. **I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.**"

B. Be generous

A heart that is generous, a heart that sees the needs of others will never covet that which is not his.

1 Timothy 6:18-19 "They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life."

C. Have faith

No matter what our circumstances - we focus our hope on God and not on the material things that others have accumulated.

1 Timothy 6:17 "As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on **God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.**"

Prayer

Father, we come before You today and acknowledge You as Creator of this universe. Further, we acknowledge that Your Commandments are a reflection of Your Character Attributes and that our willingness or not to walk in Your Ways will determine whether we reflect Your Glory or not.

I repent for the sin of coveting.

- ◆ I understand that I have been blessed with unique talents and gifts.
- ◆ I understand that I am an integral part of the body of Messiah and as such have been selected to work and labour in a specific place in the body.

I repent for coveting another's gifting and position and acknowledge that my actions are causing the body of Messiah to fail in its ultimate goal of reflecting Gods Glory. Firstly because I am not functioning in the correct position and secondly, because I am causing an unbalance to occur where I am attempting to work outside of my mandate.

I acknowledge that my action has opened to door to the sin of stealing ... I am stealing from those who need my gift and I am stealing time and space from the place / position in the body of Messiah that I am occupying illegally.

I acknowledge that I am committing murder in that bearing false witness to your plan and purposes. In my actions I am intimating that I know better than YOU what should be done ... thereby declaring that I am above all creation.

In addition, I will have caused division with my brothers and would have reacted in anger at the suggestions that I neither fit in, nor do I work where I am gifted.

I also realize that in my action of not being in the correct part of the body of Messiah, that I will be contributing to the act of oppressing the poor and needy as we will not function optimally.

I acknowledge that I am committing the sin of idolatry, in that I have placed my will / ego and pride above your design for my life.

I acknowledge that my action has opened the way to a life of broken relationships. I have rejected those who should be working alongside of me and that I have imposed myself on others where I do not fit in with.

Father, I petition that You will forgive me for my insensitivity towards my calling. I petition that You will cover this sin with the Blood of the Messiah.

I further petition that You will help me twofold;

- i) to identify all people with whom I have ruptured our relations and help me to make restitution, and
- ii) help me to return to the position in which You placed me and give me the insight and wisdom to serve with diligence.

I further petition that You will help me to identify the sin of covertness as soon as it arises in my life so that I can build wall of defence against this.

Father I ask You to bless all of those who have been wounded by my actions and release in them a renewed vigour to walk in Your ways.

AMEN

Priestly Blessing

Numbers 6:24-27

“Y’varekh’kha YHVH v’yishmerekha.
May YHVH bless you and keep you.

Ya’er YHVH panav eleikha vichunekka.
May YHVH make His Face shine on you and show you His favour.

Yissa YHVH panav eleikha v’yasem l’kha shalom.
May YHVH lift up His Face toward you and give you peace.

Numbers 6:27 *“In this way they are to put **My Name** on the people of Isra’el, so that I will **Bless** them.”*

