

Timeline of Truth – Commandment #10: Do Not Covet (Exodus 20:17)

¹ And God spoke all these words, saying:	
² "I <i>am</i> the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.	
³ "You shall have no other gods before Me.	Nothing / No One But God Directing My Life
⁴ "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of <i>anything</i> that <i>is</i> in <u>heaven</u> above, or that <i>is</i> in the <u>earth</u> beneath, or that <i>is</i> in the <u>water</u> under the earth; ⁵ you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, <i>am</i> a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth <i>generations</i> of those who hate Me, ⁶ but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.	No Self-Defined Version of God
⁷ "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold <i>him</i> guiltless who takes His name in vain.	Not Misusing God's Name (Words, Actions)
⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day <i>is</i> the Sabbath of the LORD your God. <i>In it</i> you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who <i>is</i> within your gates. ¹¹ For <i>in</i> six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that <i>is</i> in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.	<u>Rest to Reflect</u> and to <u>Recharge</u>
¹² "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.	Treat Your Parents as God's Special Helpers to You
¹³ "You shall not murder.	No Death-Dealing Thoughts, Words, or Actions
¹⁴ "You shall not commit adultery. (same in Deut 5:18)	No Intimacy Outside of God-Designed Marriage
¹⁵ "You shall not steal. (same in Deut 5:19)	No Taking of Things that Do Not Belong to You
¹⁶ "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. (=Dt 5:20)	No Intentional Misleading of Others
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 <i>is</i> your neighbor's." Deut 5:21 'You shall not covet your neighbor's wife; and you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his <u>field</u> , his male servant, his female servant, his ox, his donkey, or anything that <i>is</i> your neighbor's.'	No Desiring What Belongs to Others Satisfaction will never be found in things, but only in God. God knows what and how much I truly need, and will ensure that I get what I need.

1. Love Is the Basis of Not Coveting

Rom 13:9 For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

2. Covetousness Is Sinful

1 Cor 6:9-11 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

Eph 5:2-5 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. ³ But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; ⁴ neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. ⁵ For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

1 Cor 5:9-11 I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people. ¹⁰ Yet *I* certainly *did* not *mean* with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. ¹¹ But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner-- not even to eat with such a person.

Hab 2:9 "Woe to him who covets evil gain for his house, That he may set his nest on high, That he may be delivered from the power of disaster!

3. God Calls Us to Focus on His Word

Ps 119:36 Incline my heart to Your testimonies, And not to covetousness.

4. Covetous Living Is a Wrong Approach to Life

Luke 12:13-34 Then one from the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." ¹⁴ But He said to him, "Man, who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵ And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses." ¹⁶ Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. ¹⁷ "And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' ¹⁸ "So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. ¹⁹ 'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, *and* be merry.'" ²⁰ "But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' ²¹ "So *is* he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." ²² Then He said to His disciples, "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on. ²³ "Life is more than food, and the body *is more* than clothing. ²⁴ "Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap, which have neither storehouse nor barn; and God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds? ²⁵ "And which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? ²⁶ "If you then are not able to do *the* least, why are you anxious for the rest? ²⁷ "Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ²⁸ "If then God so clothes the grass, which today is in the field and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more *will He clothe* you, O *you* of little faith? ²⁹ "And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. ³⁰ "For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. ³¹ "But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you. ³² "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ "Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. ³⁴ "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

5. God Calls Us to Put Off Covetousness

Col 3:5-7 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷ in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

6. God Calls Us to Fee Dangerous Covetousness and to Be Content

Heb 13:5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

1 Tim 6:6-11 Now godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. ⁸ And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. ⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. ¹¹ But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

Phil 4:11-13 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: ¹² I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. ¹³ I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

7. God Calls Us to Give to His Work and Rest in His Provision

2 Cor 9:6-8 But this *I say*: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ *So let* each one *give* as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may have an abundance for every good work.

Pro 11:25 The generous soul will be made rich, And he who waters will also be watered himself.

Pro 22:9 He who has a generous eye will be blessed, For he gives of his bread to the poor.

8. God Calls Us to Look to the Eternal

Heb 11:24-26 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, ²⁶ esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

9. Freedom from Covetousness Is an Indicator of Spiritual Maturity and a Requirement for Leadership

1 Tim 3:3 not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous;

Titus 1:7 For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money,

Acts 20:33-35 "I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. ³⁴ "Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. ³⁵ "I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

10. Being Covetous Is Being an Enemy of the Cross of Christ

Phil 3:18-19 ¹⁸ For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ: ¹⁹ whose end *is* destruction, whose god *is their* belly, and *whose* glory *is* in their shame-- who set their mind on earthly things.