

10th Commandment: "The Heart of the Law"

1. **"You shall have no other gods before me."**
2. *"You shall not make for yourself an idol..."*
3. **"You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God..."**
4. *"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy..."*
5. **"Honor your father and your mother..."**
6. *"You shall not murder."*
7. **"You shall not commit adultery."**
8. *"You shall not steal."*
9. **"You shall not give false testimony..."** 10. *"You shall not covet..."*

1. Commandment 2. Crisis 3. Christ 4. Contentment

1. Commandment

Dull END: EXCITING, DRAMATIC Laws: Murder & Sex, Now COVETING!
Appears ANTI-CLIMACTIC End to FIRE, SMOKE, & TERROR of Mt SINAI

a. What is It? Strong Feeling of DISSATISFACTION > MISSING Something

NOT ALL Desires are BAD > Good Desires > Motivate to do GOOD THINGS
BIG DIFFERENCE between 'I like that' & 'I MUST HAVE That!'
HEALTHY Desires: Eat, Exercise, Productive, Friendship > NOT All PURE

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

Coveting – a consuming desire to possess in a wrong way something belonging to another. John Mackay

'an insatiable desire of getting the world' Thomas Watson

Study 10 Young Children LONDON – EACH CHILD Given ONE Toy
1 Minute - Two Pulling E/Other's toys - 3rd Child Grabbed Abandoned Toy
AFTER 45 MINUTES - 2 Huddled in Corners, Clutching Toys
3 Kids - 2 Toys Each // 2 Had None // 2 Different Toys than Given

Adults are MORE SUBTLE > COVET with more CLASS & CLEVERNESS

The tenth commandment mentions various forms of property, such as houses, servants, and livestock. Today most people are less interested in donkeys and oxen...but the commandment still stands. We covet things like bigger houses, faster cars, and better entertainment...clothes with designer labels, appliances with more features, gadgets...and a million other trivial products.

Philip Graham Ryken

SPECIFICS in Command are SUGGESTIONS > NOT EXHAUSTIVE
"keep your heart and your hands off your neighbor's property"

People's Attributes: Looks, Age, Talents, Brains, Popularity, Hair, Waistline

Covet Other's Situation: Spouse, Singleness, Kids, Empty-Nest, Job

Covet Spirituality: Gifts, Wisdom, Ministry, Success, Testimony, Church

COVET – Neighbor's Wife – or Wife Across the Street, City, or World

UNRULY DESIRE of SEXUAL FANTASY > Want what is NOT OURS

It was Spring, but it was Summer I wanted;

The warm days and the great outdoors.

It was Summer, but it was Fall I wanted;

The colorful leaves and the cool, dry air.

It was Fall, but it was Winter I wanted:

The beautiful snow and the joy of the holiday season.

It was Winter, but it was Spring I wanted:

The warmth and the blossoming of nature.

I was a child, and it was adulthood I wanted:

The freedom and the respect.

I was 20, but it was 30 I wanted:

To be mature and sophisticated.

I was middle-aged, but it was 20 I wanted:

The youth and the free spirit.

I was retired, but it was middle-aged I wanted:

The presence of mind without limitations.

My life was over, *And I never got what I wanted.*

COVETING has NO CLASS Distinctions > Rich AND Poor – ALL AGES
NO ETHNIC Divisions > People from EVERY TRIBE and NATION Covet

b. Why is it Bad? > Steals our PEACE, JOY > Leads to MORE PROBLEMS

Covet > May Seem ANTI-CLIMACTIC Ending to 10 Commandments

Jesus puts it on A List: For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, *covetousness*...

Mark 7.21-22 NKJV

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, nor thieves, *nor covetous*...will inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 6.9-10 NKJV

COVETING can SINK US into HELL as FAST as ANY OTHER SIN

Yrs Ago - USA Co. Opened FACTORY in PANAMA > Remote Village Area
Most VILLAGERS > BARTER ECONOMY > One Pay Check – Set for Life!
TRAINED Workers QUIT > How to keep Factory Going?? Retain Workers??
Solution: GAVE EACH EMPLOYEE Department Store CATALOGUE
KEPT Working > Buy Stuff – NOT Know EXISTED > Can't Live WITHOUT!

COVETING, Unlike other 9 Commands > INWARD DESIRE, NOT ACTION
Many Times it is EVIL CAUSE of OTHER SINS > I Must GET THIS!!

SINFUL Deeds BEGIN with a SINFUL DESIRE > Often COVETING
Many Examples BIBLE > COVETING Starts Stuff > USUALLY BAD STUFF

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Genesis 3.6

Each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

James 1.14-15

King Ahab > COVETING Led to Killing Good Man Naboth > for FIELD!
COVETING and MURDER > Led to DEATH of Ahab & Queen Jezebel

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 6.10

ROOT OF DAVID'S SIN: Wants BEAUTIFUL Bathing BATHSHEBA

BREAKS 10th Commandment > I will DO ANYTHING to GET HER!

BREAKS 8th Commandment > STEALS Another Man's WIFE

BREAKS 7th Commandment > Commits ADULTERY with HER

BREAKS 9th Commandment > FALSE WITNESS against Husband URIAH

BREAKS 6th Commandment > Plans MURDER of his Loyal Soldier URIAH

DOMINO EFFECT Law > KNOCK ONE DOWN > ALL FALL in a ROW

For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

James 2.10

I belong to the Cult of the Next Thing. It's dangerously easy to get enlisted. It happens by default – not by choosing the cult, but by failing to resist it... It has its own litany of sacred words: *more, you deserve it, faster, cleaner, brighter*. It has its own deep-rooted liturgy: *charge it, instant credit, no down-payment, deferred payment, no interest for three months*. It has its own preachers, evangelists, prophets, and apostles: ad men, pitchmen, and celebrity sponsors. It has, of course, its own shrines, chapels, temples, meccas: malls, superstores, club warehouses. It has its own sacraments: credit and debit cards. It has its own ecstatic experience: the spending spree. The Cult of the Next Thing's central message proclaims, '*Crave and spend, for the Kingdom of Stuff is here.*'

Mark Buchanan

Man Jesus calls FOOL > Built BIGGER Barns for New Wealth
SAYS - "soul take thine ease" – RELAX – You've GOT IT MADE NOW!

He CONFUSED his STOMACH for his SOUL

Messenger of God > TONIGHT IS YOUR SOUL REQUIRED OF YOU

What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?
Matthew 16.26

Why should we, who have been born again to spiritual life, allow ourselves to be controlled by runaway desires? Why should we fix our minds on things that will rust, rot, and depreciate?...we've been called to be agents of reconciliation. We're created to accomplish eternal goals. Bill Hybels

2. Crisis

SPENT Summer STUDYING 10 COMMANDMENTS > CRISIS of FAITH

Affirmation – WORDS RING TRUE – 3000+ yrs old > Remote Sinai Hilltop
Written FINGER of GOD > Agree > FINGERPRINTS of God All Over US

In Jesus > DOUBLE Affirmation > Holy Spirit wrote on Tablet of YOUR Heart
10th Comm > FINAL BLOW to any STILL STANDING after 1 – 9 Commands

This last commandment is addressed not to those whom the world considers wicked rogues, but precisely to the most upright – to people who wish to be commended as honest and virtuous because they have not offended against the preceding commandments. Martin Luther

Comm NOT to CRIMINALS but Law KEEPERS > PROUD Kept them ALL!
GOTCHA Element to Command – Look INSIDE!! 1-9 Outside / 10 INSIDE!

a. Holy Hero....Mel Gibson??

Few Weeks ago MEL GIBSON: Arrested Drunk Driving > to Arresting Officer
Starts Spewing Anti-Semitic VERBAL DIARRHEA > World SHOCKED!

Hollywood POUNCES on HOLY MAN > Made BIG \$ on Movie about Christ!
AFFIRMS Suspicions > MEL is Just ANOTHER Religious HYPOCRITE!

EXPECT Hollywood People to be SINNERS > HOLY HEROES in BIBLE...

b. Holy Hero – Abraham!

Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

Genesis 15.6

WHAT Happened AFTERWARD > Sex with Concubine, Son named Ishmael

Travel to Negev > King Abimelech – Beautiful Wife Sarah, really SISTER!

Sometime BEFORE Sarah Died > Took ANOTHER Wife – Keturah

c. Holy Hero – David!

GOD Tells BAD KING Saul that GOOD KING David will REPLACE him -
 "...the LORD has sought out *a man after his own heart* and appointed him
 leader of his people, because you have not kept the LORD's command."

1 Samuel 13.14

Saul did BAD THINGS > Offering Sacrifices and NOT Killing all Prisoners

GOOD KING David > Took Illegal Census, 70,000 Israelites DIED as Result
 Adultery, Murder, Deceit, Terrible Father, Polygamous > least Dozen Wives!

CHOSEN by GOD! > Good KING > OT Man MOST LIKE Jesus!?

Well, POOR OT GUYS – NEVER SAW JESUS – BEST GUYS in the NT!

d. Holy Hero – Paul!!!

Paul's TESTIMONY > Seen RISEN CHRIST, Converted & Commissioned
 Apostle to Gentiles > Greatest NT Author, Theologian, Church Planter EVER!

I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate
 I do...I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I
 have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not
 the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do - this I keep on doing.

Romans 7.15-20

SHOCKING CANDOR! Many TRY and BLUNT its IMPACT – **defenses....**

- Paul is TALKING ABOUT SOMEONE ELSE
- HYPOTHETICAL Situation, Flight of IMAGINATION
- Testimony BEFORE CONVERSION

PERSONAL Pronouns > ‘I’s’ and ‘me’s’ > Paul’s Words about HIMSELF

IF Testimony BEFORE SALVATION: NO SHOCK! Of course, he’s a MESS!
HERE it SHOCKS - Saved, Sanctified, Spirit-filled, Set Apart as God’s Apostle
STILL PROBLEM WITH COVETING!!

Sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, *produced in me every kind of covetous desire.* Romans 7.8

This is Paul the Converted Apostle > Order of Romans > Justification (3,4),
Sanctification (5,6) > NOW after ALL THAT – STILL Struggle with SIN!!
FIGHT with SIN > ALL Christian LIFE > Until GLORIFICATION (ch 8)

30 Yrs Christian > Broken Each of TEN Commands > This WEEK! Morning!
Put MY LIFE on BIG SCREEN > Not a PRETTY PICTURE

SHOCKED!?! Divorce Rates, Infidelity, Theft of BELIEVERS: Bad as World
I am SAD, but I am NOT SHOCKED > Understand the GOSPEL

ROMANS Paul examined WHOLE SOCIETY > Godless Pagans (ch 1)
Self-Righteous Moralists (ch 2), Hebrew People of God / Law (ch 2,3)

CONCLUSION: What shall we conclude then? Are we any better? Not at all!
We have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under
sin...There is no one righteous, not even one... so that every mouth may be
silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. Romans 3.9-19

Christian Pastor to Jewish Rabbi: One of the greatest differences between our
two religions is the idea that you’ve committed a sin by just desiring or thinking
it. **We believe you have to actually commit the physical act before it is
really sin. Otherwise we’d be sinning all the time!** Jewish Rabbi

PASTOR: You are ABSOLUTELY RIGHT!

Easy for US – Like PHARISEES – Praise OUR GOODNESS, OBEDIENCE
 We're Law KEEPERS, Pagan World LAW BREAKERS
 Christians COMMIT Same SINS as PAGAN NEIGHBORS > Better HIDING!

CRISIS: Should drive us Not to Self Defense, Empty Excuses > TO CROSS

3. Christ

a. Pardon > Cannot SAVE SELVES – BEFORE or AFTER Conversion

Important TRUTH > LAW CANNOT SAVE YOU! – even After Conversion

Law can do nothing to justify the person who has violated its sanctity and come under its curse. Law, as law, has no cleansing provision; it exercises no forgiving grace; and it has no power of enablement to the fulfillment of its own demand. It knows no clemency for the remission of guilt; it provides no righteousness to meet our iniquity; it exerts no constraining power to reclaim our waywardness; it knows no mercy to melt our hearts in penitence and new obedience. It can do nothing to relieve the bondage of sin; it accentuates and confirms the bondage.

John Murray

ONE Theology > SAVED, Get BETTER, some Teach PERFECTION!
 They SAY > If You are NOT BETTER > You Are NOT REALLY SAVED

ONE Popular Teacher > Emph GOOD HEART, New Heart, WILD HEART!

Mel Gibson was WRONG – Drunk, Words of Hatred – Issued Public Apology

Hollywood Cannot CONNECT DOTS between Mel's Movie & Mel's Mouth
 MOVIE: Human Heart so VILE, Sinless Son of God Savagely Tortured & Die

Mel Gibson is NOT Jesus > Mel Gibson NEEDS JESUS

For what the *law was powerless to do* in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, *God did by sending his own Son* in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering.

Romans 8.3

God of Sinai is God of Calvary > Curse of Law born upon Cross of Christ

you have come to...*Jesus the mediator of a new covenant*, and to the sprinkled blood
Hebrews 12.22,24

No one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin...But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known...This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood... Romans 3.20-26

Most IMPORTANT – & one of MOST COMPLICATED – Paragraphs in Bible

This KIND of TEACHING Crucified Jesus > LAW is NOT LIFE with GOD
LAW Spotlights how DEAD we ARE > How Hopeless! How Lost! Desperate!

To the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness. Romans 4.5

GOOD NEWS NOT that God will DECLARE Us Righteous WHEN we ARE!
GOSPEL > God DECLARES Us Righteous when WE ARE NOT! JESUS IS!!

simul iustus et peccator ‘Simultaneously justified and sinful’ Martin Luther

ONLY Honest Personal Conclusion after Studying 10 Commands > BROKEN!

BREAKING them LESS? > Improving?! > How is LAW a Little BROKEN??
How is PERFECTION ALMOST Attained? Righteousness SORT OF Gained??

We THINK > OUR Righteousness MUST FIT IN to the Plan SOMEWHERE
SHAMEFUL that WE Christians should be UNRIGHTEOUS, Still GUILTY!

JUSTIFICATION is not being MADE HOLY > Being DECLARED HOLY
Freely Given – Holiness, Righteousness, Pardon, Grace – from The Holy ONE!

Who ever heard of someone being declared ‘not guilty’ even when he continued committing crimes? How can the law-keeping of someone else be credited to the law-breaker?
Michael Horton

NOT About US > BEFORE we are Saved OR AFTER!
Song of Redeemed > FOREVER > Worthy is the LAMB!
After 1000 Years will NOT Start Singing - “I did it MY WAY!”

b. Power

Student to Martin Luther – ‘If what you’re saying is true, then we may live as we want!’ Luther – ‘Yes. Now, what do you want?’

We are BEING SANCTIFIED > New NATURE > Residing HOLY SPIRIT
But HOLINESS is a PROCESS, Life-Long Process, NOT PERFECTIONISM

The law sends us to the gospel for our justification; the gospel sends us to the law to frame our way of life.
Samuel Bolton

Anyone who struggles as a believer with ongoing sinful habits, behaviors, and desires knows why this is so important...Paul uses this testimony to his own failures as an example of the realism we ought to have in the Christian life. One cannot truly grow in Christ unless one is prepared for failure. When it comes, as it inevitably will, the Christian must know why it comes and not be disillusioned with the gospel simply because of overly optimistic schemes of victorious living. Instead, one must simply acknowledge God’s forgiveness and move on in the strength of the Holy Spirit.
Michael Horton

GOSPEL is GOOD NEWS Not Just for SINNERS, but also for SAINTS!

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense - Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.
1 John 2.1-2

GREAT VALUE of Church CATECHISMS > Clear Teaching – You and KIDS

Q. 113 - What is God’s will for us in the tenth commandment?

A. That not even the slightest thought or desire contrary to any one of God’s commandments should arise in my heart. Rather, with all my heart I should always hate sin and take pleasure in whatever is right.

Q. 114 – But can those converted to God obey these commandments perfectly?

A. No. In this life even the holiest have only a small beginning of this obedience. Nevertheless, with all seriousness of purpose, they do begin to live according to all, not only some, of God’s commandments.

Q. 115 – No one in this life can obey the ten commandments perfectly: why then does God want them preached so pointedly?

A. First, so that the longer we live the more we may come to know our sinfulness and the more eagerly look to Christ for forgiveness of sins and righteousness.

Second, so that, while praying to God for the grace of the Holy Spirit, we may never stop striving to be renewed more and more after God’s image, until after this life we reach our goal: perfection. Heidelberg Catechism, 1563

4. Contentment

OPPOSITE – Perhaps the ANTIDOTE to Coveting – is CONTENTMENT

a. Survey > CHECK BOXES – Personal Satisfaction EXAM!

Coveting Life about Consumption	Content Living for Kingdom of God
Dissatisfied Glass Half EMPTY	Delighted HALF FULL – Father Holds Pitcher
Grumbling Words of Bickering	Grateful Words of Blessing
Lack of Love Focus only on SELF	Liberty to Love Godly Concern for OTHERS
Empty MISSING: Cool, Hot, Lukewarm	Everything NEEDS Met – and Many Wants too!
Regret Why DON’T I Have Job, Dress, House	Rejoice Congrats! I am HAPPY for You!

Hold Tight Finances ruled by Fear	Hands Open Freely Give! Freely Received!
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b. Secret

Reporter to John D. Rockefeller: How much money does it take to be happy?
 ROCKEFELLER's Answer: 'JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE!'

APOSTLE PAUL'S TESTIMONY -

I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing. Act 20.33

Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. 1 Timothy 6.6,7

One can be POOR and be CONTENT > or RICH and CONTENT > In Between

Contentment: Wanting what *God* wants for us rather than what *we* want.

I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 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 4.11-13

WORD 'Secret' – COMFORT – Not NATURAL, For Me NOT NORMAL
 Also CHALLENGE – Am I going to FIND IT FOR MYSELF?

I find a sufficiency of satisfaction in my own heart, through the grace of Christ that is in me. Though I have not outward comforts and worldly niceties, yet I have a sufficient portion between Christ and my soul abundantly to satisfy me in every condition. Jeremiah Burroughs

c. Source Contentment NOT from Poverty or Wealth > Knowing TRUE GOD

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. 1 Timothy 6.17

Lack of contentment is first and foremost a theological issue...we can find an anchor for contentment that isn't carried every way by the waves of either fortune or failure; an anchor not in our own personal experience, but in the eternal promise of God.
Michael Horton

PAUL's SERMON in LYSTRA -

'...*the living God*, who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them...*he provides you* with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy'
Acts 14.15,17

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." So we say with confidence, "*The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?*"
Hebrews 13.5-6

Modern Church > Goes Light on Theology > BORING and DIVISIVE!
Emphasis on HOW TO's – Get This, Be That, Do More – Above all BE Happy!

REFORMERS > Emph on DOCTRINE, esp SALVATION by Grace thru Faith
NOT Primary Goal to GET RESULTS: Instead GET RIGHT w/ God & WORD

Reformation EMPHASIS Not – MORAL REFORM of POLITICAL CHANGE

Others attack the life; I attack the doctrine.
Martin Luther

SURPRISE! God HONORED Word > Changed Them, Changed SOCIETY
Glorifying God: First & Foremost > CHANGED Neighbors & Neighborhoods

TESTIMONY of CONTENTMENT – Word of Hope for All –
LORD, you have assigned me my portion and my cup; you have made my lot secure. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.
Psalm 16.5,6
