

The Ten Commandments

**RULES FOR
LOVING**



10 The tenth commandment

“You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife. You shall not set your desire on your neighbor’s house or land, his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor (v. 21)

“You shall not desire to have your neighbor’s wife. You shall not set your desire on your neighbor’s home or investment property, his job, bank balance or overseas trips, his widescreen digital flat-screen TV or his BMW, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

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Commandments



Dennis The Menace®

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EDUCATIONAL
AUTHORITY

1. Facing up to Covetousness

The sin of covetousness

A selfish desire for something which we have no right to possess

It was the temptation that caused Adam and Eve to sin, and the reason behind the religious leaders rejection of Jesus, leading to His crucifixion

Facing up to Covetousness

It reveals heart-sin

“I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, “Do not covet.” But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire ... I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death”

Rom 7:7-10

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Commandments

Facing up to Covetousness

It leads to further sin

“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil” 1 Tim 6:10

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Commandments

Facing up to Covetousness

It amounts to idolatry

“Put to death whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.” Col 3:5-6

“Stop loving this evil world and all that it offers you, for when you love the world, you show that you do not have the love of the Father in you. For the world offers only the lust for physical pleasure, the lust for everything we see, and pride in our possessions. These are not from the Father. 1 John 2:15-16

Facing up to Covetousness

➤ The subtlety of covetousness

“I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, “Do not covet.” Romans 7:7-10

The sin Christians have sanitized

“In the last days people will love only themselves and their money ... and love pleasure rather than God”

2 Tim 3:2,4

2. The folly of covetousness

“Beware! Don’t be greedy for what you don’t have. Real life is not measured by how much we own”

“You fool ... to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God”

Luke 12:15

It is insatiable

“If you love money, you will never be satisfied; if you long to be rich, you will never get all that you want.” Eccl.5:10

The folly of covetousness

It is destructive

“What causes fights and quarrels among you? Aren’t they caused by the selfish desires that fight to control you? You want what you don’t have ... You’re determined to have things, but you can’t get what you want. You quarrel and fight.” James 4:1-2

The folly of covetousness

It brings worry

“The rich are always worrying and seldom get a good night’s sleep”

Eccl. 5:12

“Don’t worry about tomorrow...”

Matt. 6:34

The folly of covetousness

- **It brings dissatisfaction**
- **It is futile**

It focuses us on the here and now

“Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where they can be eaten by moths and get rusty, and where thieves break in and steal...”

Matt. 6:19-21

3. Freedom from covetousness

“I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation - whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little.” Phil 4:12

➤ **Develop faith in God**

*“Stay away from the love of money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, **“I will never fail you. I will never forsake you”***

Hebrews 13:5

Freedom from covetousness

➤ Develop an eternal perspective

*“Set your minds on things above,
not on earthly things”* Col 3:1-2

➤ Develop a new walk with God

*“I can do all things through Him who
gives me strength”* Phil 4:13

➤ Develop contentedness

*“Now godliness with contentment
is great gain ...”* 1 Tim 6:6-10

Freedom from covetousness

Develop generosity

“He covets greedily all day long, while the righteous gives and does not hold back” Prov 21:26

Every time I give, I’m breaking the grip of covetousness.

God has not blessed you for your own benefit.

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Freedom from covetousness

Develop generosity

1 Tim 6:17-19 *“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. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share”*

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