

# The Ninth and Tenth Commandments

## Introduction

Coveting is one of the most difficult sins to describe because it is something that initially is not an outward action, but it is something that first occurs in our heart. Yet coveting is a deadly sin because it always leads to other sins. The Bible stories today will illustrate that.

Opening Prayer: *Heavenly Father, I have indeed transgressed your commandments. I have been impatient in trials. I am unsympathetic and unmerciful. I do not help my neighbor. I am unable to resist sin. I do not tire of doing wrong. Dear Lord, pour out your grace on me and give me your Holy Spirit to help me to avoid jealously wanting things that rightfully belong to others and that are not available for me to obtain. Help me to be content and to love you above all things and to do your will. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

**Lesson Aim:** What is God impressing on us by telling us not to covet?

## Part One

Read Exodus 20:17.

- 1) What is the Ninth Commandment?
- 2) What is the Tenth Commandment?
- 3) Define covet.

Read 1 Kings 21:1-16.

- 4) What was Ahab guilty of coveting?
- 5) How did Ahab show that he was guilty of coveting?
- 6) What further sins did Ahab's coveting lead him to commit?

Read 2 Samuel 11:1-17.

- 7) What was David guilty of coveting?
- 8) How did David show that he was guilty of coveting?
- 9) What further sins did David's coveting lead him to commit?

Read Matthew 26:14-16, 47-50, 27:1-10.

- 10) What was Judas guilty of coveting?
- 11) How did Judas show that he was guilty of coveting?
- 12) What further sins did Judas' coveting lead him to commit?

**KEY POINT 1** - Coveting is a craving or sinful desire for something that rightfully belongs to someone else and that God doesn't want us to have, which may lead us to sinful words and actions.

**What I've learned so far:**

## Part Two

Part Two serves somewhat as a summary to our study of the Ten Commandments.

Read James 1:14-15.

1) What is the problem with coveting? Well, we know that God's concern is not primarily our physical actions, but the thought or attitudes of our hearts. Outline the three-step progression of sin that this verse brings before us:

Step 1:

Step 2:

Step 3:

Read Psalm 51:5.

2) How long have you been a sinner?

You have never known life without sin. Sinful desires come into our hearts because we inherit it from our parents, who are sinful. The fact that we are born in sin is called our sinful nature.

Read Galatians 5:17.

3) When God the Holy Spirit brings us to faith, he leads us to desire good. He leads us to desire to not sin. What is the result of having both a sinful nature and a new heart of faith?

Read Matthew 4:8-10.

4) Jesus does not have a sinful nature because he is the Son of God. Jesus' mission according to the plan for our salvation was to make up for where our sinful nature failed. Which commandment is Jesus keeping in these verses?

Read Luke 6:12.

5) How is Jesus keeping the Second Commandment in this verse?

Read Luke 4:16.

6) How did Jesus keep the Third Commandment?

Read Luke 2:51.

6) How did Jesus keep the Fourth Commandment?

Read 1 Peter 2:23.

7) How did Jesus obey the Fifth Commandment?

Read Hebrews 4:15.

8) How did Jesus honor the Sixth Commandment?

Read 2 Corinthians 8:9.

9) How did Jesus keep the Seventh Commandment?

Read Luke 23:34.

10) How did Jesus follow the Eighth Commandment?

Read Romans 3:23-24.

11) What is the most important thing for us to know after learning about the Ten Commandments?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.

God took our sin and our disobedience, and he put it on Jesus. God took Jesus' perfection and obedience to his commands, and he gave it to us.

**KEY POINT 2** - I deserve death and hell because since birth I have had a rebellious sinful nature—one that fills my heart with sinful desires—but Jesus took away the punishment I deserve by perfectly keeping every commandment in my place.

**What I've learned so far:**

## Part Three

Study questions 117-125 in the Catechism and answer the following questions in your own words.

- 1) What is God trying to impress on us by telling us, "You shall not covet"?
- 2) What is the danger of sinful desires?
- 3) What attitude does God teach us to have by adding "or anything that belongs to your neighbor"?
- 4) What kinds of desires does God want us to have in our hearts?
- 5) How only are we saved from our sins against these and all of God's commandments?

Helpful Passages

James 4:2

What does this verse say about coveting, and how does it describe other things that it can lead to?

**Main point — God wants me not to covet, warning me about my sinful heart and its desires. But knowing that Jesus forgives me for my failures, he also gives me a new heart to fight these desires.**

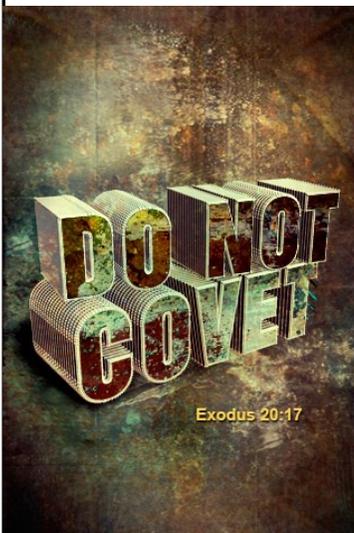
Final considerations:

- 1) In the Ninth and Tenth Commandments, God says that we must not \_\_\_\_ .
  - A. mar or damage our neighbor's house or other property.
  - B. attempt to purchase anyone else's property unless that person comes to us to sell it.
  - C. covet—that is, have a sinful desire for—anything that belongs to our neighbor.
- 2) A sinful desires for anything that belongs to our neighbor \_\_\_\_ .
  - A. would never arise in the heart of a true Christian.
  - B. will tempt us into other shameful thoughts, words, and actions.
  - C. is not a sin in God's eyes as long as we don't act out on it or follow through with it.

Yes or No

- 3) \_\_\_\_ Because every person is born with a sinful nature, is every Christian capable of committing any sin?
- 4) \_\_\_\_ Is there a difference in a desire to steal (7th Commandment) and coveting?
- 5) \_\_\_\_ Did Jesus ever covet?
- 6) Why is it important to have and know the Ten Commandments?
- 7) How should we treat our neighbors who have more earthly things than we do?
- 8) What should be a Christian's attitude toward possessions?

**What I've learned:**



**Commit to Memory:**

- The Ninth and Tenth Commandments with Luther's explanation.
- The Ten Commandments — Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5