

January 9, 2008 Command of Christ → Beware of Covetousness
Character quality → Contentment
Scripture reference → Luke 12:15

- 1 Timothy 6:5-10 – “*The love of money is the root of all evil...*”
- Philippians 4:11-13 – Satisfaction in whatever state we are in.
- Hebrews 13:5 – (character and moral disposition)

Covetousness - [Hebrew (OT)] – to delight in; desire; lust

- Note: This is not entirely negative. In 1 Corinthians 12:31, we are instructed to covet (earnestly desire) spiritual gifts.

The 10 Commandments instruct us to not “covet” our neighbor’s goods (possessions) or wife (spouse). [Exodus 20:17]

- The 10 Commandments are based in love: If covetousness rules our heart, we cannot love correctly!

How is your heart inclined? (What / Who is it directed towards?)

Psalm 119:36 – “*Incline my heart to Your testimonies and not to covetousness (robbery, sensuality, unworthy riches).*”

Proverbs 28:16 – The promise of prolonged life to someone who hates covetousness.

Isaiah 57:17 – Due to the sin of Judah’ covetousness, God became angry with him and smote him.

Jeremiah 6:13 - A prophetic pronouncement concerning the covetousness of the people, ministers, and even the priests.

8:10 – The removal of God’s protection and a loss of all that they have because of their sin.

22:17 – Covetousness is listed with shedding innocent blood, oppression, and violence.

Habakkuk 2:9 – “*Woe to him who obtains **wicked gain** for his house, [who thinks by so doing] to set his nest on high that he may be preserved from calamity and delivered from the power of evil.*”

Covetousness will open the door to many other evil works!

Mark 7:21, 22 – A condition of the heart that is listed with wicked thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, destructive wickedness, deceit, unrestrained conduct, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness.

Romans 1:29 – The result of not honoring God → a defiled character.

Luke 12:15 – **Jesus commanded us to beware!**

- Why? Because it has the power to choke out the life of the Word in us - that should ultimately be bearing fruit. (Matthew 13; Mark 4)

Luke 16:14 – A characteristic of the Pharisees (who embodied the religious spirit).

Ephesians 5:1-5 – Covetousness (contrasted with love --- and listed with sexual vice [a perversion of love]) disqualifies us from inheritance in the kingdom.

Also notice in Hebrews 13:5 how the denouncement of covetousness is listed right after honor in the marriage bed (v.4).

Ephesians 5:5 - Idolatry
Colossians 3:5 – Idolatry

1 Thessalonians 2:5 – The use of flattery as a cloak of covetousness?

Exodus 18:21 – The hatred of covetousness was a qualification for leadership.

- 1 Timothy 3:3 – Disqualification for leadership.

2 Timothy 3:2 – Evidence of the last days → Men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, lovers of perversion and sensual pleasures, lovers of amusements.

2 Peter 2:3 – False prophets and false teachers will introduce heretical doctrines that will seduce people away from the faith. (also read 2:12-16)