

## **Covetousness-A Destroyer of Families**

God planned that children be born into families.

This morning I want to talk about something that often tears families apart.

And I want to give the Biblical antidote or solution or medicine.

One thing that often causes trouble in our families is covetousness. Not a matter of poor or rich but of heart (Proverbs 4:23)

### **COVETOUSNESS**

Wanting more and more for yourself now.

Without regard for others.

Without regard for eternal values.

A dissatisfied spirit that robs God of thanks for His blessings.

That lifts up money and things to the place of God to the extent you'd even do wrong in order to get them.

Form of idolatry - sets you up as God, because in coveting you assume you

Know what is good for you better than God does.

The Bible never speaks in positive terms about covetousness.

10 Commandments prohibit it (Exodus 20:17).

Coveting leads to other sins like stealing – lying – oppression – injustice – murder.  
Debt – gambling – lottery.

Micah 2:2 – Covet and take by violence

1 Corinthians 6:10 – Listed with hateful sins

2 Peter 2:13, 15 - Listed with hateful sins.

Colossians 3:5 – Same as idolatry. Also leads to complaining and God hates that (1 Corinthians 10:10 and Proverbs 19:13).

Hebrews 13:5 – Gives antidote. Not covetousness but contentment.

Philippians 4:11 – Paul learned to be content.

### **CONTENTMENT**

Being quietly satisfied with what you are and what you have. Accepting God's care and provision for you.

The ability to appreciate and enjoy what God has given you, while leaving the ultimate choice of future benefits up to God.

I Timothy 6:6-10, 17 – God gives us richly all things to enjoy.

Content – Declares that God is a good God. He is good to me. I can trust Him.

Covet – I’m not so sure God is good. I deserve more and better NOW. I’m going to get it one way or another.

Are you a COVETOUS Christian or a Contented Christian?

Affects motive for giving.

Contented – Gives out of love and gratitude. Desires to share God’s blessings.

Covet – Gives only to Get. Sowing seeds – not so people can be saved but to get more For himself.

Contented – Enjoys what God gives.

Covetous – Never satisfied. Wants a little more. SS in Accra: so much he couldn’t contain it.

### **CAUTIONS**

Not wrong to set goals. Plan work. Proverbs

What happens when we don’t reach goals? – Dissatisfied? – Angry?

God grant me the ability to change what I can and to accept what I can’t change and wisdom to know the difference.

House in Congo – Floor - Termites.

I havn’t always done so well.

Going back to Congo.

4 years discontent.

Continual dripping.

Didn’t allow myself to enjoy a minute.

Last time family together.

God knew.

I’m glad Paul said to he learned to be content.

You may be working toward goals – Fine.

Having done all will you be content? Will you say God is good to me?

**MONKEY TRAP**

Covetousness is a trap

Evil seed that grows into a poisonous tree.

Leads to many sins.

Counter productive

Closed vs open fist

You can enjoy the good gifts God's given you. God is a good God. Will you trust that what He gives is the best?

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