

# Deuteronomy: God's Covenant People

[#24] *Jesus did not Covet, He Loved* – Deuteronomy 5:21

## Sermon Outline – January 14, 2018

### Children's Sermon: Fear & Relief

'Twas **grace** that *taught my heart to fear*, And **grace** *my fears relieved*;  
How precious did that grace appear, The hour I first believed!

- **Coveting:** Wanting what belongs to someone else...
- **Love:** Giving yourself away to everyone who needs your help...

**Looking at our Heart** (Luke 10:25–37 – Love... Good Samaritan)

- Love God..., Love your neighbor...
- Who is my neighbor?

**Jesus did what We Can Not Do!**

### #10 You Shall not Covet your Neighbor's...

Notes:

(Dt. 5:21; Cf. Dt. 24:17–26:19)

**Covet:** *desire*: inordinate, ungoverned, selfish desire<sup>1</sup>

**Desire:** *desire, long for, lust after*, of bodily appetites<sup>2</sup>

### What is Israel to Understand?

#### The Heidelberg Catechism, Ans. 113

Not even the slightest desire or thought contrary to any one of God's commandments should ever arise in our hearts. Rather, with all our hearts we should always hate sin and take pleasure in whatever is right.

#### Prohibited:

"There is no action in this command that has not already been prohibited elsewhere in the Decalogue, but here it is the motivation and desires of one's heart that are being dealt with. One is simply not to have an ungoverned, selfish desire for something that **belongs to someone else**." (emphasis mine)<sup>3</sup>

#### Required:

"[not coveting] also implies a positive reaction. Calvin puts it this way: 'Whatever we conceive, deliberate, will, or attempt is to be linked to our neighbor's good and advantage.'"<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Brown, F., Driver, S. R., & Briggs, C. A. (1977). *Enhanced Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon* (p. 326). Oxford: Clarendon Press.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. (p. 16).

<sup>3</sup> Currid, J. D. (2006). *A Study Commentary on Deuteronomy* (p. 152). Darlington, England; Webster, New York: Evangelical Press.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid. (p. 154).

## Matthew 5:38–42

<sup>38</sup> “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ <sup>39</sup> But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But *if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other* also. <sup>40</sup> And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, *let him have your cloak as well*. <sup>41</sup> And if anyone forces you to go one mile, *go with him two miles*. <sup>42</sup> *Give* to the one who begs from you, and *do not refuse* the one who would borrow from you.

(Mt. 5:43ff. – Love our enemies...!)

“Thus, we may not be guilty by outward actions, but our hearts condemn us—who can act so uprightly at all times?” <sup>4</sup>

### Today's Clear Biblical Bullet...

At the heart level, we are to love, not covet our neighbor.  
We are in big trouble apart from Christ!



## At the Heart Level, We are Desperately Wicked

Heart Root, Deeds Fruit

**Jeremiah 17:9–10** (Cf. Luke 6:45)

<sup>9</sup> *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?* <sup>10</sup> “I the Lord search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to **the fruit of his deeds.**”

- Cain Coveted Abel's Blessing...
- The Sons of Israel Coveted their Father's Favor...
- King David Coveted Uriah's Wife...

## Our Hearts Reveal Our Rebellion

**James 2:10–11**

<sup>10</sup> For whoever keeps the whole law but *fails in one point* has become guilty of all of it. <sup>11</sup> **For he who said,** “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a ***transgressor of the law.*** (Cf.)

**How much more when we covet** what belongs to someone else, we are revealing our rebellion against God's order and choices.

## Adam & Eve Coveted what belonged to God

### Genesis 3:6

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a *delight* (ta-awa) to the eyes, and that the tree was to be *desired* (coveted) to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

We covet each other's...

- Wealth, status, power, influence, abilities, temperaments, spiritual gifts, spiritual growth.

We covet God's...

- Authority & Power (grumbling; prayer is a cop-out)

**Calvin** 'Whatever we conceive, deliberate, will, or attempt is to be linked to our neighbor's good and advantage. ...and to honor, magnify & praise God's authority, power, goodness & wisdom.

**Matthew 22:37-40** – Love God & Neighbor

**Romans 7:7-12** – Covet more... (Scripture Reading)

### Jesus Loved, and did not Covet

#### *...Fired at our Life & Heart*

Everything Jesus conceived, deliberated, willed, or attempted was linked to the good of his neighbor and to his Father's Glory



Turn, Trust & Follow Jesus

1. How far we are from self-righteousness!
2. How perfect is the gift of Jesus' substitution!
3. How beautiful are God's ways!
4. Press-On Toward the Heavenward Goal!

## For Further Study:

### John 13:14–15

<sup>14</sup> If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup> For *I have given you an example*, that you also should do just as I have done to you.

### 1 Peter 4:1–2

<sup>1</sup> Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with *the same way of thinking*, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, <sup>2</sup> so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.

(Cf. 2 Thessalonians 3:7–12)

## The Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 44

### Q & A 113

Q. What is the aim of the tenth commandment?

A. That not even the slightest desire or thought contrary to any one of God's commandments should ever arise in our hearts. Rather, with all our hearts we should always hate sin and take pleasure in whatever is right.<sup>1</sup>

1 Ps. 19:7-14; 139:23-24; Rom. 7:7-8

### Q & A 114

Q. 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.<sup>1</sup> Nevertheless, with all seriousness of purpose, they do begin to live according to all, not only some, of God's commandments.<sup>2</sup>

1 Eccles. 7:20; Rom. 7:14-15; 1 Cor. 13:9; 1 John 1:8-10

2 Ps. 1:1-2; Rom. 7:22-25; Phil. 3:12-16

### Q & A 115

Q. Since no one in this life can obey the Ten Commandments perfectly, why 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.<sup>1</sup> Second, so that we may never stop striving, and never stop praying to God for the grace of the Holy Spirit, to be renewed more and more after God's image, until after this life we reach our goal: perfection.<sup>2</sup>

1 Ps. 32:5; Rom. 3:19-26; 7:7, 24-25; 1 John 1:9

2 1 Cor. 9:24; Phil. 3:12-14; 1 John 3:1-3