

**Teaching Notes**  
*Commandment Number Ten*  
Exodus 20:17

Date: April 17, 2016  
Title: The Forbidden Fruit  
Text: Exodus 20:17  
By: Lowell Warren

**Introduction**

As we come to the last commandment we will notice that the tenth commandment offers something different from the others.

The first nine dealt with **ACTIONS**.

This one deals with **ATTITUDE**.

It is much easier to deal with the first nine.

It is easy to see the actions.

Attitudes are hidden within us.

Why would God spend so much time with our actions and now suddenly move the bar -now He speaks of Attitudes.

The last commandment ties the other nine together as it talks about the law relating to what we hold inside our hearts.

**FIRST - Where does the **COMMANDMENT** come from?**

The Hebrew word *covetousness* comes from the same root as our word "desire" or "delight".

It is easy to see the link between these two words.

Seeing *covetousness* as an inordinate **DESIRE** for something that may very well may be a **DELIGHT** makes a lot of sense.

People do not covet something that has no attraction to them.

Who wants a broken glass, watch, or reward?

Covetousness happens when one sees it, likes it, and begins to tell himself he has to have it.

The Commandment is not saying desire and delight are wrong.

God gave us desire and surrounded us with delightful things in His creation.

But He does put some stipulations on us –  
"Do not desire delightful things wrongly."

We need to identify the wrong *desires* and admit to ourselves how we have mishandled delightful things.

Not only has God given us desire and delightful things but He has also **DENIED** us certain things.

When we ignore the limits God has placed in our lives we are guilty of breaking the tenth commandment.

Let's look at some God-given Desires –

**First**, He has clearly given us *the desire to acquire*.  
There is nothing wrong with that.

Example: The squirrel has a desire to store nuts in the fall so they can survive the winter. The birds collect straw to build a nest to lay eggs and hatch little birds.

**Second**, God has given us *the desire to succeed*.  
I don't know of anyone who desires to fail.

I know people who fear failure.  
Because the fear of failure we strive to go the extra mile in order to succeed.

God put us in this world to achieve something or to be something and failure was not in God's plans for any of us.

**Third**, God has given us *the desire to produce*.

From the beginning of time God gave man raw materials and expected him to make something better from them for the glory of God.

**SECOND** - Let's take a look at God-given **DELIGHTFUL** Things.

God has given us delightful things.

In the beginning of time of creation after God created something  
– He stepped back and said, "*this is good.*"

God has not, nor does not make anything shabby. -"it is good."

Psalm 19:10, The Bible says we should *desire* His **PRECEPTS**, that God's truth is *delightful*, more **PRECIOUS** than gold, and something about it enraptures our soul.

God gives us the ability to know truth. God took the initiative to reveal truth to us.

The bottom line is that God has filled creation with love and truth and all manner of delightful gifts and He has given us the desire for these things.

Covetousness means these God-given desires have gone wrong. Desire has turned to greed.

There are basically full:areas that are off limits.

### **First**, desiring *Excessively*

God does not mind our desiring...  
He just doesn't want us to over do it.

How do we determine the boundary line?  
People are different.

One person's excessive is normal for another.

When we move from satisfaction to wanting more we have crossed the line.

Over and over God made it **CLEAR** that one of the reasons the Hebrews went into **CAPTIVITY** was the fact that they were never satisfied.

They desired far more than they needed.  
Their possessions had now possessed them.  
They had been consumed by their coveting.

Desiring Excessively

### **Second**, Desiring *Illegitimately*

There is some "forbidden territory" for Christians in the eyes of God.

In the beginning, God put Adam and Eve in the garden to demonstrate His love for them.

All He asked was to be loved in return.

You can't make someone love you.  
Love is a choice.

We chose to love God enough to obey.

How much we love God determines our level of obedience.

God told the two in the garden -It's all yours -Just don't go near the tree of good and evil.

There was no physical fence around it.  
There were limitations placed around it.

Their love for God would be all they needed.

Their desire overruled their love and it has cost man ever since.

God has "*no trespassing*" signs posted in other areas as well.  
For our own good there are posted signs of don't touch, don't taste,  
don't look, etc.

Read the story about Achan in Joshua 7.  
God said "do not touch, do not take."

This one man's sin caused defeat for the whole Israelite nation.

God told Joshua that there was "**sin in the camp.**"  
His sin was covetousness.

**Third**, Desiring *Exploitatively*

This is desiring things at the expense of someone else.

We use that person for our own benefit.

Listen to God, II Peter 2:3. "***In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.***"

This commandment illustrates what God expects of His people -  
*Don't covet your neighbors things.*

Wanting or keeping what belongs to another person is wrong.  
If you **GET** it -return it.  
Don't exploit other persons.

**Fourth**, Desiring *Exclusively*

In Luke 12 Jesus spoke to the people and one in the crowd said,  
***"Teacher make my brother give me part of what he has. "***

This man was allowing his greed for more, rule over him.

**ILLUSTRATION:** In the original draft of the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson wrote that man had the inalienable right of life, liberty, and the pursuit of *possessions*. The committee that worked on the document changed the wording, to read, "that man has the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of *happiness*."

Our society promotes that true happiness is found in the things you collect and possess.

The Bible says we come into this world with nothing and we leave with nothing.

Other areas of **DANGERS** with covetousness

Covetousness leads to *dishonesty*

Covetousness leads to *injustice*

Covetousness creates *unsatisfiable* demands

Covetousness causes us to worship our possessions and not the creator.

Covetousness has a language of its own that **DOMINATES** conversation -  
I Me, Mine, etc.

Covetousness robs us of our "JOY"

J -Jesus

O -Others

Y - Yourself

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Teaching Notes  
*Ten Commandments*  
*Wrap Up*

Date: April 17, 2017

Title: Meeting the Command's Demands: What God Expected Text:

Selected Texts

By: Lowell Warren

## Introduction

God brought the Children of Israel out of Egypt and established a **COVENANT** agreement with them.

He would be their God.

They would be His chosen people. He wanted to work through them.

He wanted to demonstrate what it meant to have a relationship with Him.

The Israelites would love the Lord their God with all their heart, soul, and strength.

They would love their neighbor as themselves.

Their actions would show their uniqueness as the people of God.

God gave the commandments to help them.

Four, to show the love relationship with God.

Six, to show their love in relating to other people.

So what do these commandments mean to us today?

**FIRST** - They remind us how **UNRIGHTEOUS** we are.

Romans 3:20, "*Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.*"

This verse clarifies two things for us.

**First**, this verse says that no one will ever be right with God because he or she has **FULFILLED** the Ten Commandments.

People will tell you they live by the Ten Commandments and when asked they can even recite them.

They will tell us that the Ten Commandments are some kind of "code of ethics."

There are some who feel that if you make a half-hearted attempt at keeping the Ten Commandments you will be okay.

Then there are those who like to pick and choose which commandments apply to them.

The one's they choose – they usually do a good job of keeping.

For them it's ok to be greedy as long as you don't commit adultery.  
Or -if God knew my parents He would have never said to honor them.

Fact: God doesn't give us the freedom to have such attitudes. All are His commands..

If keeping the Commandments was all it took the rich young ruler would have had his foot in the door.

#### Matthew 19:16-26

**Second**, we **LEARN** from the commandments,

"No one will be declared righteous in His sight by observing the law; rather through the law we become conscious of sin."

You know most of us are really good people.  
We know how to behave in public.  
We can get along with most People.  
We usually perform pretty well.

But what about when we are there by ourselves.

Nobody is looking or listening.  
There is within each of us the tendency to sin.

***Romans 7:7-8. "Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting was if the law had not said, 'Do No Covet.' But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire."***

As we have looked at the ways we have sinned against God as we studied the Ten Commandments, our **EYES** have been opened. Our **HEARTS** have been convicted.

We must agree with God – Yes... I have sinned.

When we recognize our sinfulness and need for God's forgiveness we have been brought spiritually face to face with our Holy God.

So how do we become right with God?

Romans 8:3, "*What the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did.*"

The Ten Commandments cannot make any person **FIT** for heaven.

To go a step further -the Ten Commandments **CANNOT** equip us to live as we ought because of the weakness of our sinful nature.

The law is good... it is man.

The material God's law has to work with is defective.

The good news, "What the law was powerless to do, God did."

What did God do?

He sent His Son who knew no sin to become sin so we could have eternal life.

"God did it." John 3:16

Jesus took all the consequences of sin on Himself and went to Calvary.

The load of sin was so great He stumbled on the road to Calvary and the sky turned black as Jesus paid the price to save us.

You have never and will never meet a person who Christ did not die for.

If the Ten Commandments can't **SAVE** us, why bother with studying them?

Because when we study the Ten Commandments we are led by God's Holy Spirit to show us our sin and shame.

When we confess to Jesus and ask for His forgiveness God writes our names down in the book of life.

But Jesus writes His love into our hearts so we can live as a Christian daily. He changes our heart.

**ILLUSTRATION:** A man riding on an airplane took out his Bible and decided to catch up on his reading. A stewardess came by and said, "mustn't spill coffee on the good book, must we?" "No" the man replied.

A while later another stewardess had a word with the man and she stayed and talked for a bit. She said, "You know four years ago the Bible was a dead book to me. Then something happened, and I can't explain it, but I can't get enough of it. I devour it."

The man responded, "I know what happened." Have you ever read a book that was boring, then one day you met the author? Afterwards you picked up the same book and said, I know who wrote this and it became the most exciting book in the world to you...""Yes, that's what happened to me, I met the author."

When you meet the author of the Word of God, He begins to write in your heart His word rather than beating you up with it.

A change of heart means you have repented of your sin.

Remember the little phrase that makes all the difference in your worlds...

**GOD DID IT!!!**

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