



Whoever loves money will never be satisfied with money. Whoever loves wealth will never be satisfied with more income.

Ecclesiastes 5:10 (GWT)

You must not covet your neighbor's house. You must not covet your neighbor's wife, male or female servant, ox or donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor.

Exodus 20:17 (NLT)

I. WHAT IS COVETING?

Covet simply means to “have a strong desire for” - good things or bad things.

A deer longs for streams of water. God, I long for you in the same way. I am thirsty for God. I am thirsty for the living God. When can I go and meet with him?

Psalms 42:1-2 (NLT)

But, our desires become “covetous” when we have the wrong kind of desires, our desires get out of control, or we try to fulfill right desires in the wrong way.

To covet is to desire someone else's blessings. It's to look at what someone else has been given and say, “if only I had that, then I would be happy, or content, or successful, or satisfied or safe”. We can covet just about anything: property, money, relationships, physical features, status, spiritual gifts, toys, athletic prowess, or intellect. Coveting is a passion to acquire something from the world that will satisfy our deepest longings, or so we think.

Bill and Kathy Peel

Covetousness is a serious sin

And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know God's decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

Romans 1:28-32 (ESV)

II. WHY IS GOD SO CONCERNED ABOUT COVETING?

① Coveting is a form of _____.

“If I just had _____ I would be happy”

You can be sure of this: The Kingdom of Christ and of God will never belong to anyone who is impure or greedy, for a greedy person is really an idol worshiper—he loves and worships the good things of this life more than God.

Ephesians 5:5 (TLB)

② Coveting is an expression of _____.

There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made know through Jesus Christ.

Blaise Pascal

③ Coveting is the root of all other _____.

Take King David, for example. When David became involved with Bathsheba, the Bible tells us that he ignored the eighth principle when he stole another man's wife. He ignored the seventh principle when he committed adultery with her. He ignored the ninth when he lied about his affair with the woman and the third principle when the whole thing took the Lord's name in vain. He ignored the sixth when he arranged for the murder of Bathsheba's husband, and he ignored the first principle because God wasn't at the center of his heart through the whole business.

Rick Atchley

④ Coveting destroys _____.

What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.

James 4:1-3 (NLT)

III. HOW DO I KNOW IF I AM A COVETOUS PERSON?

① Am I willing to _____ others in order to get more?

② Is getting more my _____ priority?

③ Do I have a hard time _____ away what I have?

Some people are always greedy for more, but the godly love to give!
Proverbs 21:26 (NLT)

④ Am I _____ discontented and envious of others.

⑤ Am I always looking forward to what is _____?

Enjoy today. It is one of the "good old days" you will miss in the future!
Etta Sawyerr

IV. HOW CAN I OVERCOME COVETING?

① The cure for coveting is _____.

Contentment is a learned skill in which I choose to enjoy who I am, the moment I am in, and where God has placed me right now. Yet, continuing to grow, mature, and find God's Best for my future.

Contentment is not the fulfillment of what you want, but the realization of how much you already have.
Author Unknown

Good news: Contentment can be _____

Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.

Philippians 4:11-13 (NLT)

2 Keys to cultivating contentment:

- _____ **on thanking God for what I have.**

Those people honor me who bring me offerings to show thanks. And I, God, will save those who do that.

Psalm 50:23 (NCV)

- _____ **my mind with ideas that promote contentment.**

Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

John 6:35 (NLT)

- _____ **to be happy for the good fortune of others.**

Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep.

Romans 12:15 (NLT)

- _____ **feelings of envy with acts of kindness.**

You're more likely to act yourself into feeling than feel yourself into action.

Dr. Jerome Bruner

- _____ **that this world and everything in it is temporary.**

For this world is not our home; we are looking forward to our everlasting home in heaven.

Hebrews 13:14 (TLB)

Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die.

John 11:25-26 (NLT)