

EXODUS 20:15-17: A brief review of all the commands up to this point (1) first four relate to God and man (2) the remaining six relate to man's relationship to men in a society.

DO NOT STEAL:

A desire to have what you do not earn. Stealing will lead to other actions, fights and vengeance and even murder. Cf. Mt. 6:19; Eph. 4:28, theft and idleness go together. Cf. Acts 20:35; 2 Thes. 3:8, 1 Thes. 4:11

DO NOT LIE:

- Speaking falsely, devising and deceiving
- Speaking unjustly to harm a reputation
- Tale bearing, slander, back-biting aggravating to ruin a neighbor

Generally speaking, it's to avoid trouble for yourself. Passing the blame to someone else

NOTE: Many will lie to protect themselves from judgement or trouble, i.e. Pharisees towards Jesus. Ancient legal processes depended entirely on witness testimony. And two witnesses were needed, cf. Matthew 26:59. These two commands are certainly necessary for a just society to function.

TRANSITIONAL POINT: Command 1-4, our relation with God, command 5-10, our relation to man, but command 10 gets at a root of the issue of coveting. Just as murder and adultery are anger and heart issues, coveting is a contentment issue.

YOU SHALL NOT COVET:

Contentment defined is a *"spiritual state of peace, satisfaction, and trust in God, regardless of external circumstances, rooted in faith that God provides all that is truly needed."* Philippians 4:11-13.

- Contentment is learning (vs. 11)
- Lack of contentment is not trusting God, cf Phil 4:19
- Learn this in "whatever" circumstance you're in (vs. 11)
- Content both in wealth and poverty (vs. 12)

Stoic philosophy of the day, taught that contentment came from within a person. But Paul teaches this contentment comes from Christ (vs. 13). That's the "secret" he learned. This verse is the most out of context verse used for various personal ventures.

- Christ is our contentment, He is our joy, He is our hope no matter where we find ourselves

The source of Paul's contentment should be ours as he describes in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. What did Paul describe as his strength?

- Christ is His contentment
- His boasting wasn't in his inner self but in Christ (vs. 9)
- Therefore (vs. 10) none of these things will bring about discontentment, because his hope isn't in his circumstances
- What are those things? (Vs. 10) and what is the true hope?

APPLICATION: These circumstances still brought contentment because it was "for Christ's sake." Again, "for" when he's weak, "then" he is strong. How? Because hope and joy is centered on Christ not this world. He was content with having less and even nothing because he had Christ. What is it that your trying to find peace in? Social status? Events? Wealth? Comforts? The phrase "I am well content" is a verb phrase being content with "weakness, insults, distresses, persecutions, difficulties."

PAUL'S ADDRESS TO TIMOTHY: 1 Timothy 6:6-10

- Being in Christ, a follower of Christ is evident by contentment (vs. 6)
- We have brought nothing into the world (vs. 7)
- Don't let things be the basis of your joy (vs. 7) you can't take it with you
- "If" (vs. 8) we have these things, we're content
- The root of all evil is the "love of money" and there's no contentment is wealth or possessions or status (vs. 8-10)

THE 10TH COMMAND: You're not satisfied with your home, nor your wife (husband), your servants, ox, donkey or anything that belongs to him. In our time, not satisfied with your car, your job or whatever. Everything that God allows you to have and enjoy in this life is temporary. Rejoice in the Lord that He gives you stuff to manage, but your contentment won't be in those things. And because you aren't content, you covet and even steal to possess or lie to achieve something temporal and fading.

What is the most treasured source of contentment and joy? God. Temporal things bring temporal joy. God brings eternal joy and He is glorified in us by our joy in Him and contentment in Him. John Piper has coined the phrase, *"God is most glorified in us, when we are most satisfied in Him."* The Westminster Catechism, *"What is the chief end of man? Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever"*, cf. Psalm 16:11. Enjoy Him in circumstances that aren't ideal. Enjoy Him in marriages where there's tough moments. Enjoy Him in moments of grief, because in Him you can only find joy and grief mingled together because your joy and contentment isn't based upon stuff and things and possessions.

Matthew 6:19, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal."

Ephesians 4:28, "He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need."

Philippians 4:11-13, "Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. **12** I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. **13** I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

Acts 20:35, "In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

1 Thessalonians 4:11, "And to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands, just as we commanded you."

2 Corinthians 12:7-10, "Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself! **8** Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. **9** And He has said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. **10** Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong."

1 Timothy 6:6-10, "But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. **7** For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. **8** If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. **9** But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. **10** For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."

Psalms 16:11, "You will make known to me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; in Your right hand there are pleasures forever."