



“I shall always be ready to remind you of these things...”
2 Peter 1:21



CABOT WESTSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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When We Meet

Sunday

Bible Classes – 9:00 am
Worship – 10:00 am, 5:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Classes – 7:00 pm

Our Elders

R.D. Hopper
Norman Kemper

Our Deacons

Troy Hunter
Kelly Kendall
Tony Ramick

Our Preacher

Alex Hale

Covetousness, Part 1

By Alex Hale

Exodus 20:17, *“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”*

~

To covet something means to intensely desire something that you do not have which belongs to someone else. This is a form of idolatry, because when we covet, we are taking something earthly and making that the object of our affection. Covetousness is to be avoided because God hates it (Psalm 10:3). Furthermore, covetousness is to be avoided because it is destructive to us.

Covetousness can lead us to commit other sins. James 1:14 says that sin begins with a desire. Many times that desire is for something that does not belong to us. King David stood on the balcony of his palace and saw a beautiful woman named Bathsheba bathing. His desire to have her, even though she was married to someone else, led them to commit adultery. Later, in the last of a series of attempts to cover up his sin, he had Bathsheba’s husband strategically placed in the front lines of battle where he would be killed. Covetousness led to adultery and murder.

In 1 Kings 21, King Ahab wanted the land which adjoined his property, land that belonged to his neighbor Naboth. Though Ahab offered to buy it, Naboth did not want to sell because it had been in his family for a long time. Ahab’s wicked wife Jezebel told her husband that she would remedy the situation. Her “solution” involved falsely accusing Naboth of blasphemy and treason and having him put to death. Covetousness led to lying, murder, and the theft of land.

Though our covetousness may not lead to the loss of physical life, the results are frequently devastating.

- How many marriages have been ruined because someone else had a desire for one of the spouses?
- How many churches have been divided because someone had an insatiable thirst for power and would not submit to God-ordained leadership?
- How many friendships have been destroyed because someone was jealous over a new car, new house, or job promotion?

On and on we can go with examples of the devastating effects of covetousness. This sin turns our hearts from God and fills our hearts with trouble and care. True joy is not found in covetousness, but in contentment (1 Timothy 6:6-8).

[NEXT WEEK: Other Ways Covetousness Is Destructive To Us]