



“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 II

By Alex Hale

Covetousness is a sin of desire. One has written that this command is particularly difficult, maybe the toughest command of all because it refers to invisible attitudes. Controlling our actions is hard, but controlling our hidden feelings and thoughts takes things to a whole new level. Yet we must do this because covetousness is an abomination to God (Psalm 10:3) and has the potential to hurt us deeply. One way in which coveting hurts is in its ability to lead us to commit other sins (see last week’s article).

Coveting is also destructive because **when we covet, we miss what is truly important in life.** Jesus warned about this when He said, *“Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions”* (Luke 12:15). The rich fool of that chapter, consumed with greed, forgot about others. He trumpeted his own accomplishments, but made no mention of those who had helped him get to where he was. He also said nothing about those who could have benefitted from his generosity. Accumulating riches was his ultimate goal, but that is not something which brings true joy (Acts 20:35). In our lives, when possessions take on a life of their own, they can steal our joy rather than adding to it. The rich fool also forgot about God. He saw himself as the owner of all that he possessed, failing to understand that everything belongs to God and that all blessings come from God (Psalm 24:1; James 1:17).

Coveting is also destructive because **it is deceptive in nature.** It promises us something, but fails to deliver. It builds within us the mindset of “I could be happy if...” There is an old *Dennis the Menace* comic strip which showed the title character looking through a Christmas catalog saying, “This catalog’s got a lot of toys I didn’t even know I wanted!” We see this with our kids. Each year we are presented with “must have” items which are enjoyed for a few days but quickly lose their appeal. But as adults, we are just as bad! One writes, “Tickle-Me-Elmo isn’t giggling anymore; he’s on the top shelf of the closet in most homes between a Salad Shooter and a Veg-A-Matic.” The Snuggie is the most awesome thing ever, until you realize that it is nothing more than a bathrobe you put on backwards. Coveting promises happiness but always leaves us wanting more.

True joy in life is not found in covetousness, but in contentment (1 Timothy 6:6-8). Contentment is not instant; it is a learned process (Philippians 3:7-8; 4:11). Contentment comes when we understand that God knows our needs even before we ask Him (Matthew 6:8). Contentment comes from a trust that God will always be with us. So we close with the sentiments of the Hebrew writer, who admonished the brethren, *“Keep your life free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for He has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’ So we can confidently say, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?’”*