

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

THE NINTH AND TENTH COMMANDMENTS

DEVOTION

YOU SHALL NOT COVET YOUR NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE. (EXODUS 20:17)

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

YOU SHALL NOT COVET YOUR NEIGHBOR'S WIFE, OR HIS MANSERVANT OR MAIDSERVANT, HIS OX OR DONKEY, OR ANYTHING THAT BELONGS TO YOUR NEIGHBOR. (EXODUS 20:17)

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

Keep your life free from 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?" (Hebrews 13:5–6)

FOR SHARING

1. "Better a little fire to warm us than a great one to burn us." Explain the saying in the light of our materialistic culture.
2. Describe, in your own words, what it means to covet.
3. What sinful desire in the Garden of Eden brought sin into the world? What did Adam and Eve show by their actions?
4. St. Paul writes of Christ Jesus, "Though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9). How does the Gospel of forgiveness and salvation bring contentment to your life?
5. Share, as time permits, how God's Word is your source of joy, encouragement, and contentment.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, You have blessed me in ways too numerous to count. Thank You for everything You have given me. Thank You, above all, for salvation in Christ. Strengthen me to live in love toward others so that I may rest content in Your goodness and peace. In Jesus' name. Amen.