

1. The Heart of Covetousness

A matter of true love to God:

Luke 16:13-15 - "No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him. And he said unto them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men; but God knows your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God."

A matter of true love to our fellow man:

Romans 13:9 "For this, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not bear false witness, you shall not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, you shall love your neighbour as yourself."

A fruit of our fallen nature:

Mark 7:21 "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man."

The climax of God's law: (godly contentment; summary of the law of love to our neighbour).

Exodus 20:17 "You shall not covet your neighbour's house, you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is your neighbour's."

2. The Calamity of Covetousness

Romans 7:7 "What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Absolutely not. On the contrary, I had not known sin, except through the law: for I would not have known covetousness, unless the law had said, 'You shall not covet.'"

Psalms 10:3 For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire, and blesses the covetous, whom the LORD abhors.

Luke 16:15 "for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God."

Covetousness prevents us from receiving and obeying the word of God:

Ezekiel 33:31 And they come unto you as the people come, and they sit before you as my people, and they hear your words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they show much love, but their heart goes after their covetousness.

Covetousness is a sign of spiritual apostasy:

2Timothy 3:1-2 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy...

A sign of being under God's judgment:

Romans 1:28-29 - And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,...

The covetous are excluded from the kingdom of God:

1 Corinthians 5:9 - I wrote to you in a letter not to keep company with fornicators: 10 Yet not

altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then you must go out of the world. 11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat. ... 6:9 Do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither fornicators ... nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

Ephesians 5:5 - For this you know, that no fornicator, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

3. Defeating Covetousness

(General principles: 1 John 1:8-9)

Understanding the reality of our present life:

1 Timothy 6:5 ... perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw yourself. 6 But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. 9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. 11 But you, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

Understanding our status before God:

Colossians 3:1 - If then you are risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sits on the right hand of God. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. 5 Put to death therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: 6 For which things' sake the wrath of God is coming on the children of disobedience.

1 Corinthians 7:23 - "You are bought with a price".

Taking the verses of warning to heart.

Cultivating the virtue of contentment in Christ:

Hebrews 13:5 - Let your way of life be without covetousness; and be content with such things as you have: for he has said, I will never leave you, nor forsake you. 6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Philippians 4:11-13 Not that I speak in regard to need: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Patience:

Romans 8:16-17 - "The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."