


The 10th Commandment: You Shall Not Covet


Exodus 20:17

Presented by Bob DeWaay
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Overview

- The 10th commandment forbids coveting
- Paul offers commentary on this commandment in Romans 7
- The human will is impotent to end lust
- Only the work of the Holy Spirit will change us
- The work of the Holy Spirit operates through the means of grace



The Tenth Commandment

- **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 belongs to your neighbor.

("covet" in LXX = *epithumeo* "lust for")

Paul's commentary on the 10th commandment

■ **Romans 7:7**

What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, "You shall not covet."
 ("covet" = *epithumeo* "lust for")

Sin used the law as a "base of operations"

■ **Romans 7:8, 9**

But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind; for apart from the Law sin is dead. I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive and I died;

The 10th commandment showed Paul his true spiritual state

■ **Romans 7:10 - 12**

and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me; for sin, taking an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

Paul did not “will” to sin; but did anyway

■ **Romans 7:20-22** (NKJV)

Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man.

Paul (and us) are conflicted because the flesh and Spirit are both operative

■ **Romans 7:23** (NKJV)

But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

Wretched Paul! (and us)

■ **Romans 7:24, 25** (NKJV)

O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

From what we cannot do to what the Holy Spirit is doing and will do

■ **Romans 8:1, 2**

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

What God did and the Spirit is doing

■ **Romans 8:3, 4**

For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

The mind must be directed by the Spirit and not the flesh

■ **Romans 8:5, 6** (HCSB)

For those whose lives are according to the flesh think about the things of the flesh, but those whose lives are according to the Spirit, about the things of the Spirit. For the mind-set of the flesh is death, but the mind-set of the Spirit is life and peace.

Human inability

■ **Romans 8:7, 8** (HCSB)

For the mind-set of the flesh is hostile to God because it does not submit itself to God's law, for it is unable to do so. Those whose lives are in the flesh are unable to please God.

All Christians are “in the Spirit”

■ **Romans 8:9** (HCSB)

You, however, are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God lives in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

All Christians are led by the Spirit

■ **Romans 8:13, 14**

for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

Implications and Applications

- 1) We must put ourselves under the means of grace so that we may be sanctified
- 2) The Holy Spirit will complete His work and we will be glorified

- 1) We must put ourselves under the means of grace so that we may be sanctified

■ **Acts 2:41, 42**

So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

- 1) We must put ourselves under the means of grace so that we may be sanctified

■ **James 4:1, 2a**

What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. . .

1) We must put ourselves under the means of grace so that we may be sanctified

■ **James 4:4, 5**

You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: “He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us”? “the Spirit God made to dwell in us opposes envy.” – translation by Ralph Martin

1) We must put ourselves under the means of grace so that we may be sanctified

■ **James 4:6**

But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, “God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

2) The Holy Spirit will complete His work and we will be glorified

■ **Romans 8:29, 30**

For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.
