

Covetousness – What a word!

Covetousness

verb: yearn to possess or have (something).

synonyms: desire, yearn for, crave, have one's heart set on, want, wish for, long for, hanker after/for, hunger after/for, thirst for

In this day and age we hear so much about the “one percenters” or those who are the top 1% of earners in the country. We hear about the bankers making millions of dollars in bonuses, we hear about the financial wizards on Wall Street, the golden parachutes. All while many of us struggle to make ends meet. It's hard not to want what they have. It's hard not to covet.

We see the lives and relationships of the rich and the famous, we see the romanticized movies, advertisements for finding the “perfect” match, we see what seem to be wonderful relationships of those around us. It's hard not to want what they have. It's hard not to covet.

In our own despair, we see those that seem to be so happy. But are they really? We can often look in the neighbor's yard and think their grass is greener, but perhaps, it's just because they're lawn is in shade.

Anything that is not in the light looks darker, richer, and more desirable. My living room looks much more inviting in subdued lighting. That's because you can't see the stains in the carpet, the dust in the nooks and crannies or the wear marks in the furniture. The same is true in life. If all of those things that look desirable to us were exposed and seen in the true light, they might not be so desirable.

When God gave the laws to Moses, he included our desires for what others have as one of the “Thou shalt not” commandments.

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house; thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's.
Exodus 20:17

...nor anything that is thy neighbor's. That's a very inclusive statement. Instead, we are to be content in what we have.

Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.
Philippians 4:11

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.
Hebrews 13:5

We are not to take pride in those things which we possess, but rather in actions we take. Not to boast, but to be humble. Not to implore the Lord for more, but to accept all of what we have as a blessing.

And one of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me. And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you? And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consists not in the abundance of the things which he possesses. Luke 12:13-15

Placing God first, thanking Him for what we have, and living rightly in the here and now, these are the true attributes of a Christian.

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Matthew 6:33

But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 1 Timothy 6:6-7

Your neighbors got a new car, be happy for them. Your girlfriend has a husband that does housework, remind her how blessed she is. Your brother just got a big raise, praise him for the hard work he did to get it.

Everywhere you look, there are happy couples, happy families, those who seem to have a life that looks so much better than yours. So what? You have God with you, every day, in every circumstance. You are blessed. What more do you need?

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. Psalm 23:5-6

Blessing to you always,



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