

Introduction

- Lesson text: [Col. 3:5-9](#)
- 1. There was a large crowd of people that day when Jesus was teaching ([Lk. 12:1](#)).
 - a. It was not long before Jesus was interrupted by one out of the crowd ([Lk. 12:13](#)).
 - b. This prompted two commandments and a parable on the important subject of covetousness ([Lk. 12:14-21](#)).
- 2. Covetousness defined.
 - a. *pleonexia* (G4124 noun) translated as “covetous” ([2 Pt. 2:14](#)), “covetousness (8)” ([Mk. 7:22](#); [Lk. 12:15](#); [Rm. 1:29](#); [2 Cor. 9:5](#); [Eph. 5:3](#); [Col. 3:5](#); [1 Th. 2:5](#); [2 Pt. 2:3](#)), and “greediness” ([Eph. 4:19](#)).
 - i. “literally, ‘a desire to have more’ (*pleon*, ‘more,’ *echo*, ‘to have’), always in a bad sense” (Vine vol. 2 p. 136).
 - ii. “a strong desire to acquire more and more material possessions or to possess more things than other people have, all irrespective of need” (Louw-Nida 290-291).
 - b. The German poet VanGoeth is credited with these words: “Everything in the world can be endured except continual prosperity.”
- 3. Covetousness must be put to death as a deed of the old man ([Col. 3:5](#)).

I. Covetousness Begins with the Heart and Eyes

- 1. Covetousness proceeds from the heart ([Mk. 7:20-23](#)).
 - a. To covet is to desire/lust and desire comes from the heart ([Ps. 10:3](#)).
- 2. Covetousness and the eyes are linked ([Jer. 22:17](#)).
 - a. The eyes of man are never satisfied ([Pr. 27:20](#)).
 - b. To hasten to be rich is to have an evil eye ([Pr. 28:22](#)).
 - c. Achan saw and coveted ([Jos. 7:20-26](#)).

II. The Dangers of Covetousness

- 1. Covetousness perverts judgment and justice ([Mic. 3:11](#)).
 - a. Jethro understood this principle ([Ex. 18:21](#)).
 - b. The taking of brides was prohibited under the Law of Moses ([Ex. 23:8](#)).
 - c. Samuel’s sons were guilty of this ([1 Sam. 8:1-3](#)).

- d. The qualifications for the office of an elder and the office of a deacon both prohibit covetousness ([1 Tim. 3:3, 8](#)).
- e. Covetousness affects everyone to some degree ([Jer. 6:13](#)).
- 2. Covetousness produces sorrow, destruction, and leads to more sinful behavior ([1 Tim. 6:9-10](#)).
- 3. Covetousness condemns the soul to hell ([1 Cor. 6:9-10](#)).

III. How to Put off Covetousness

- 1. To put off covetousness our heart must incline to God's Word ([Ps. 119:36](#)).
 - a. Our desire for God's Word must exceed physical desires ([Ps. 19:7-11](#)).
 - b. Like Job, we must esteem God's Word more than our necessary food ([Job 23:12](#)).
- 2. To put off covetousness our eyes must be fixed on things above ([Col. 3:1-4](#)).
 - a. Lay up treasures in Heaven ([Mt. 6:19-21](#)).
 - b. In God we trust and not riches ([Ps. 141:8](#); [Mk. 10:24-25](#)).
 - c. Keep our eyes on Jesus ([Heb. 12:1-3](#)).
- 3. To put off covetousness we must be content ([Heb. 13:5-6](#)).
 - a. Contentment is learned ([Php. 4:11-13](#)).
 - b. Godliness with contentment is great gain ([1 Tim. 6:6-8](#)).
- 4. To put off covetousness we must be givers ([Ac. 20:35](#)).
 - a. The gospel transforms a covetous person into a liberal giver ([Eph. 4:28](#)).

Conclusion

- 1. Covetousness is a product of desire gone rogue.
 - a. It begins with the heart and eyes therefore they both must be controlled by the Word of God.
- 2. Covetousness is extremely dangerous and must be put off.
 - a. It results in perverted judgment and justice.
 - b. It produces sorrow and destruction and leads to more sin.
 - c. It ultimately condemns the soul to hell.
- 3. Let us keep our heart bent toward God's Word, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, be content with our lot in life, and give generously.
 - a. If we do so we will put off covetousness and keep it off!