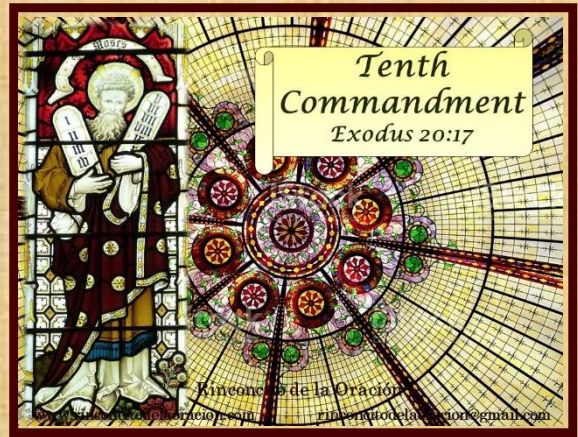


According to Exodus 20:17 the Tenth Commandment says: *“Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s wife, nor his manservant nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor’s.”*



What does the Tenth Commandment order?

The Tenth Commandment commands full contentment with our own condition, with a just and tolerant spiritual attitude toward our neighbor and all that belongs to him.

Hebrews 13:5 – 1 Timothy 6:5-7 – Romans 12:15 – 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

What does the Tenth Commandment forbid?

The Tenth Commandment forbids feeling sorry about our own situation, envying the welfare of our neighbors, and all obsessive desire or inclination toward anything belonging to them.

1 Corinthians 10:10 – Galatians 5:26 - Colossians 3:5

Conclusion: God, with this commandment, expects us to be happy with what we possess and thank Him for what He has given us with His benevolence. Let us not mistakenly think that with our *“... power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth. But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth ...”* (Deuteronomy 8:17-18).

Generally, coveting is a selfish and very strong desire to have what belongs to someone else. Many times it becomes an excessive obsession difficult to master. With the first stage, we admire and yearn for what the other person has, the second stage, becomes a will to obtain "that" which is not ours and the final stage will be to possess it at all cost.

There is much we can covet: power, money, status, someone else’s assets (car, profession, property, ability in sports, etc.), such as his wife or her husband. *“Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids.”* (Proverbs 6:25), and *“... whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.”* (Matthew 5:28)

That coveting what someone else has, in some cases becomes a deadly trap that brings ruin and destruction since because of that coveting a fight, and in extreme cases, death may occur. The Lord commands us "not to desire" because He knows our fragility and how dangerous the boundary between desire and will is and so He urges us not to desire.



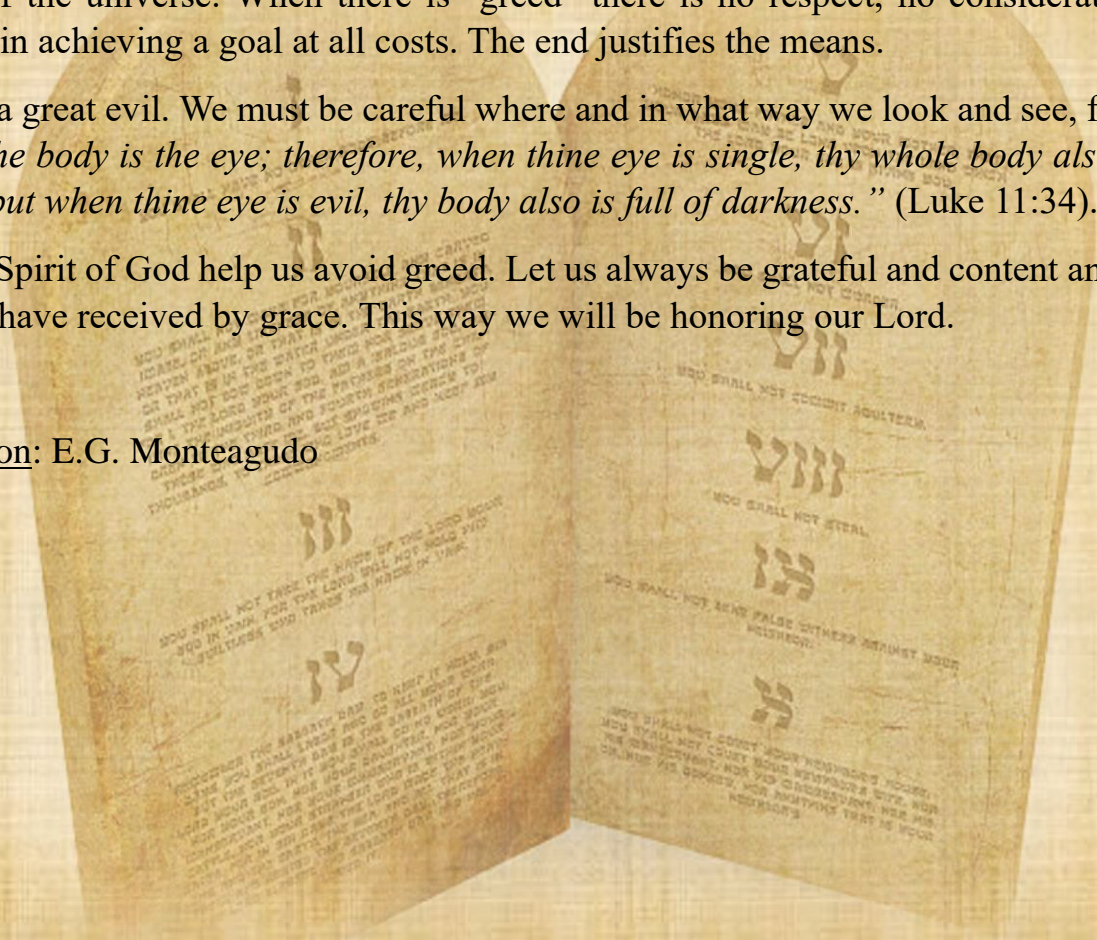
Greed is a vice that is hard to give up and very rarely satisfied. One becomes like “addicted to candy” and the more you have, the more you want. There seems to be no limit. Therefore, the Lord Jesus warns us with the following statement “... beware of covetousness; for man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.” (Luke 12:15)

A synonym for greed is "envy" and this is precisely what happened with Satan (Isaiah 14:12-14 and Ezekiel 28:12-18); while these two passages refer specifically to the king of Babylon and the king of Tyre, they also refer to the spiritual power that was behind those kings, in other words, Satan. Satan coveted (and still does) what God is, longing by all means to "remove God from His throne." He intends to attain his Divinity and thereby take control of the universe. When there is "greed" there is no respect, no consideration, no stopping in achieving a goal at all costs. The end justifies the means.

Greed is a great evil. We must be careful where and in what way we look and see, for *"The light of the body is the eye; therefore, when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light, but when thine eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness."* (Luke 11:34).

May the Spirit of God help us avoid greed. Let us always be grateful and content and value what we have received by grace. This way we will be honoring our Lord.

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