

# The Power of Contentedness

## The Tenth Commandment

### Desire the Best

The Apostle Paul said, "But earnestly desire the best gifts." [1Co 12:31] He goes on in the next chapter to explain that right desire comes from a right heart.



*We often want the wrong thing, in the wrong way, at the wrong time, and for the wrong reason.*

#### A. The Right Thing

- 1. What defines us?** *Luke 12:15* We are tempted to define ourselves and others based on possessions, education, career, heritage, accomplishments.
- 2. The drive for more:** Nelson Rockefeller was asked how much money it took to be happy. He replied, "Just a little more."
- 3. What is coveting?** Setting our hearts on something that is not rightfully ours. An inordinate, uncontrolled, selfish desire for something.
- 4. The right thing:** Godly desire seeks God first. With God first I will be able to invest the appropriate 'value' to possessions. *Matt 6:19-21; Col 3:1-2* "Only eternal values can give meaning to temporal ones." Erwin W. Lutzer (1941- )

*What do you value most in life?*

#### B. The Right Way

- 1. The wrong way:** *James 1:14-15* The distance from a 'thought' to an 'obsession' can be very short—and often very destructive. Paul says in *1 Tim 6:9-10* when money is our motivator—we run the risk of making unwise decisions.
- 2. The right way:** Desire is NOT wrong. The Apostle Paul said to, "Desire the best gifts." However, he went on to say, "I show you a more excellent way." *1 Cor 12:31*. **So what was the more excellent way?**
  - a. A right heart is the right way:** *1 Cor 13:1-3* makes it clear that 'love' [a right condition of the heart] must be our motivator rather than our talents, careers, or possessions.

*What motivates you most?*

#### C. The Right Time *2 Cor 6:2*

- 1. Timing is everything:** *Ecc 3:11* "He has made everything beautiful in its time." Peter says, "So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time He will lift you up in honor." *1 Pet 5:6 NLT*.

*How patient are you to wait for God's time?*

#### D. The Right Reason

- 1. Be content' no matter what:** *Phil 4:11-13*  
:11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be **content**:  
:12 I know 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.  
:13 **I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.**

*Where do you need Christ's strength most?*

#### Exodus 20:17 (NKJV)

**:17** "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."

#### Luke 12:15 (NKJV)

**:15** And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life **does not** consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."

#### James 1:14-15 (NKJV)

**:14** But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.

**:15** Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

#### Matthew 6:19-21 (NKJV)

**:19** "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;

**:20** but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

**:21** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

#### 1 Timothy 6:9-10 (NKJV)

**:9** But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction.

**:10** For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

For God says, "At just the right time, I heard you. On the day of salvation, I helped you." Indeed, the "right time" is now. Today is the day of salvation.

*2Co 6:2 NLT*