

Five big lies

- ✓ **Greed is good** because it promotes growth & productivity.
- ✓ We all should strive to “get ahead” and “**better ourselves.**”
- ✓ If **God wants His people to prosper** we should strive to do so?
- ✓ Coveting is one of those “**minor sins.**”
- ✓ I can not be **secure** if I don't care for myself first.

2 Corinthians 9

“¹ For it is superfluous for me to write to you about this ministry to the saints; ² for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the Macedonians, {namely,} that Achaia has been prepared since last year, and your zeal has stirred up most of them. ³ But I have sent the brethren, that our **boasting about you may not be made empty** in this case, that, as I was saying, you may be prepared; ⁴ lest if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we (not to speak of you) should be put to shame by this confidence. ⁵ So I thought it necessary to urge the brethren that they would go on ahead to you and arrange beforehand your previously promised bountiful gift, that the same might be ready as a bountiful gift, and not **affected by covetousness.**”

2 Corinthians 9:5

“a bountiful gift”

“to bestow a blessing”

“**covetousness**”

“to defraud others through a strong desire to have more for oneself”

1.

We live with competing desires that must be recognized and managed.

2.

We cannot be free to bless others as we should while we are refusing to deal with our insecurities.

3.

Generosity is a gracious act that is the fruit of finding our security in Christ and not in the stuff of this world.

4.

Coveting is the fruit of a idolatrous attachment to our stuff so as to give it a “Messianic role” in our lives.

Coveting

is desiring for myself anything that God has intended for someone else

or that Satan would use in a Messianic role in my life.

Observations from Luke 12:13-21

- ✓ There are **two ways** of measuring wealth.
- ✓ Prosperity and material wealth is **not evil.**
- ✓ **Greed (covetousness)** in any form is the problem.
- ✓ Material prosperity can **tempt one to be selfish** in the way they invest their life.
- ✓ Life is too short and uncontrolled to be **taken for-granted.**

Mark 7:20-22

“...that which cometh out of the man, that defiles the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, **covetousness**, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness”.

Romans 1:28-29

“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, **covetousness**, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers”.

2 Timothy 3:1-2

“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, **covetous**, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy”.

James 4:5

“Do you think that the scripture speaks in vain, The spirit that dwells in us lusts to envy?”.

Covetousness is a serious sin that gets lots of attention in Scripture.

Romans 7

“7 . . . for I would not have known about **coveting** if the Law had not said, "*You shall not covet.*" 8 But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me **coveting** of every kind; for apart from the Law sin is dead.”

Covetousness seems natural and is therefore easy to ignore and tolerate.

Romans 13

“8 Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled {the} law. 9 For this, "*You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,*" and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, "*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*”


Covetousness isolates us - preventing us from loving (connecting) relationally with others.

False signs of covetousness

- ✓ Material wealth
- ✓ Discretionary giving
- ✓ Hard work
- ✓ Thrift and efficiency
- ✓ Appreciation and enjoyment of life’s blessings
- ✓ Reasonable provision for future needs

True signs of covetousness


- ✓ Anxiety about life, especially the stuff
- ✓ A lack of freedom to give
- ✓ Transfer of hope to this life
- ✓ Loss of appetite for the things of God
- ✓ Hoarding what we don’t really need
- ✓ Inordinate preoccupation with the things of this world and life.




The Greek words for “**covet**” or “**lust**” convey the idea of passionate desire. It can be directed toward either good or bad things.

It is a serious problem when **anything** other than Christ has a **Messianic Role** in our lives.

Despise
Covetous



Appreciate
Contented



Considerations in addressing covetousness

- ✓ Remember the shortness of life.
- ✓ Consider what is really needed.
- ✓ Be reminded of the perils of riches.
- ✓ Remember that the more you have the more you must account for.
- ✓ Count the spiritual cost of possessions.
- ✓ Consider the example of Jesus.
- ✓ Strive to be rich in good works.
- ✓ Consider our true hope in Christ.