

DATE: June 20, 2010
TITLE: "DEALING WITH DESIRE"
TEXT: Exodus 20:17
SERIES: Back to Basics (#10 of 10)

INTRODUCTION:

A parent was walking down the street with his two small sons, both of whom were crying loudly. A neighbor passing by inquired, "What's the matter? Why all the fuss?" The father responded, "The trouble with these lads is what's wrong with the world. One has a piece of candy and the other wants it!" The sin of covetousness. This commandment speaks to us about something we all deal with. **DESIRE.**

(**PROP - Big word I can hold up = **DESIRE** – each letter different color etc)

I. DEAL WITH DESIRE BY LISTENING TO GOD'S COMMAND

"You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor." Exodus 20:17

1. The word covet may not be real familiar today, but the concept of wanting or desiring what is not ours is well known.
2. Covetousness has been called the mother of all sins.
3. A dictionary definition of "covetousness" is "grasping for more."
4. The word translated, 'covet' in the scripture refers to coveting material things, position, place, or status.
5. This Hebrew verb translated, 'covet' at its base means 'desire, yearn for, covet, or lust after' someone or something, specifically for one's own use or gratification.

Example: History records that Masdock, the Persian Emperor, believed that every problem in the world was the result of two kinds of covetousness-covetousness for other men's wives and other men's lands.

6. The word, 'covet' or 'desire' is a neutral word in of itself; it is neither good or bad.
7. There are desires that are good and those that are evil.
8. When desire is misdirected to that which belongs to another, such desire becomes wrong.
9. Desire can lead to dishonesty, exploitation, gambling, stealing, bitterness and more.

ILLUSTRATION: *(contemporary background with this) John Chrysostom preacher and teacher in the early church, three to four hundred years after Christ, said, "Even more dangerous than sins of the flesh is the sin of covetousness.

10. Many of the darker pages of human history, as well as in our world today, have resulted from covetousness.

ILLUSTRATION: (*Picture) Dr. Lee Roberson calls this, "An ancient sin dogging the steps of modern man."

11. This tenth commandment warns us twice, "You shall not covet"
12. This double negation is without parallel in the Ten Commandments.

13. In the account of this commandment in the book of Deuteronomy, the second word is a different word in the Hebrew, though the basic meaning is the same and is translated as “set your desire.”
14. When we set our desire upon something that belongs to another, it can turn to disaster.

EXAMPLE: Many, many years ago, there lived a man by the name of Achan, son of Carmi. We read about him in the book of Joshua, the seventh chapter. Joshua, the leader of the people of God at the time, sent three thousand men to capture Ai, but they were defeated. Investigation revealed that there was sin in the camp against God, for the people had been told not to take anything from the city of Jericho when it was conquered, but this man Achan had disobeyed. When confronted he testified, “When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them...” (Joshua 7:21)

15. Desire for that which was not his to take had caused disaster for the people of God and for Achan and his family.
16. The same Hebrew word translated, ‘covet’ in the tenth commandment in Exodus is translated, ‘desirable’ and used in the story of Adam and Eve and their disobedience to God, recorded in Genesis 3.

“When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also *desirable* for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.” (Genesis 3:6)

17. Desire matters because what we desire can determine our destiny.
18. This tenth commandment differs from the preceding commandments because, instead of forbidding an action, it forbids a state of mind.
19. The first nine deal almost entirely with outward behavior and only the tenth deals with inner attitudes, addressing the intention of the heart, attitude, and mind.
20. The command not to covet catches wrongdoing at its source.
21. Here is an Old Testament anticipation of the basic New Testament principle—that sin really lies within us.

“For from within, out of men’s hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man ‘unclean’.” (Mark 7:21-23)

22. The book of James addresses the issue of what is within us.

“What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don’t get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.” (James 4:1-3)

23. Coveting takes place in the heart and may not be seen on the outside by others.
24. It is this that makes it so dangerous in that it can be a secret sin.

ILLUSTRATION: John Calvin, Theologian hundreds year ago, said, “Covetousness destroys so secretly that they do not even feel its fatal stab.”

25. Others may read our behavior, but God reads our heart, mind, and soul, for he knows our motives.

King David when turning over the kingdom said, “And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts.” I Chronicles 28:9)

26. The sin of coveting is never missed by God’s all-seeing eyes.

27. God looks on the heart and judges a person for what he desires to do!

28. Desire is dangerous, for it can lead sin and death.

“For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.” (James 1:13-15)

29. Every theft begins with desire.

30. Every act of adultery begins with desire

EXAMPLE: (*PROP – a rubber duck) (*Picture of the Veggie Tales story, *King George and the Duck* with this) The story of King David’s sins of adultery and murder is well know. It began when he desired Bathsheba for himself, though she belonged to another. The children’s Veggie Tales cartoon story, *King George and the Duck*, an adaptation of the story of David and Bathsheba, Larry the Cucumber stars as King George and Bob the Tomato is his faithful servant, Lewis. The privileges of royalty—kingdom expansion, castles, power, and treasures—do not appeal to King George. But, King George loves to bathe with his rubber duck. Splishing and splashing, he sings an ode to his rubber duck called, what else? "I Love My Duck." One day, while standing on the royal balcony in his purple robe and golden crown, King George peers through his binoculars, and his eyes grow wide with desire. He spies something wonderful—a rubber duck. But, it belongs to Billy, who happens to be bathing with his rubber duck on his own balcony. Billy’s rubber duck looks exactly like King George’s rubber duck. Nonetheless, the king covets it, exclaiming, "I want it." Lewis reminds him that he already has a duck and that the other duck belongs to someone else. "Are you saying I shouldn't have whatever I want?" asks the King. Lewis opens a large wardrobe, overflowing with hundreds of identical rubber ducks and says, "If I could just jog your memory, you already have quite a few ducks." King George's rationale is simple. He shoots a condescending look at his unlearned servant and replies, "Those are yesterday's ducks."

ILLUSTRATION: (*Background with this) “Covetousness is simply craving more of what you have enough of already.” (Haddon Robinson)

31. Desire is a reality we deal with every day.

ILLUSTRATION: (*Picture of ocean etc., with this) In 1851, the German philosopher, Schopenhauer said, “Coveting is like sea water; the more we drink, the thirstier we become.”

32. It seems that once we have something, we want either more or something else.

ILLUSTRATION: (*John draw cartoon – second copy with punch line “I’ve already got them.”) Little Johnny’s parents were puzzled when he announced

that he no longer wanted the list of toys he had included on his Christmas gift list. “Didn’t you write to Santa Claus, asking for them?” his mother asked. Little Johnny said, “Yes, but I looked in your closet the other day, and I’ve already got them!”

33. Paul equates evil desire or desire that leads to evil it with idolatry.

“Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

(Colossians 3:5)

34. It comes full circle because breaking the tenth commandment is to break the first, for covetousness means setting our hearts and affections on things that eventually take the place of God and total obedience to Him..

35. We live in a culture where we are enticed to want.

36. In this culture and society, the desires are heating up.

ILLUSTRATION: Like the story of the frog that, when placed in boiling hot water, jumped out, but stayed in when he was placed in cool water that was heated to boiling, and died, many are being caught in the waters of desires.

37. All around us, the temperature of desire is going up, yet we simply sit there, stunned and non-protesting, oblivious to our impending fate.

38. We are surrounded by the web of materialism, and the glue of the coveting culture has dried in many hearts.

EXAMPLE: The gospel of Luke tells of one time when Jesus was with a group of people when “Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?” “Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” (Luke 12: 15)

39. Be aware of the danger of desire, as the Psalmist said,

(*Picture with this) “Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain. Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word.” (Psalm 119:36-37)

40. We cannot hide from the culture in the world we live, but we can find in the culture of Christ victory over this, if we will listen to God’s word of instruction and warning.

41. By faith, turn down the noise of the world and turn up your ears and listen carefully to the command, ‘do not covet’.

42. To deal with desire, we must listen and hear the Lord say to us, ‘do not covet’.

II DEAL WITH DESIRE BY LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR

1. True love keeps desire in check and in balance.

2. When love for God and love for your neighbor is at the center of your heart, it will keep you from coveting that which belongs to another.

3. When one of the teachers of the Law asked Jesus, “of all the commandments which is the most important?”, this is what Jesus said:

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all our mind and with all your strength.” The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:30-31)

4. It is not just wanting more that is condemned, but wanting it at the expense of your neighbor that is condemned.
5. The focus of this commandment is not so much on the things, but that they belong to your neighbor or to another.
6. You are not to covet your neighbor's house, wife, ox, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.
7. Probably, most of us don't covet a neighbor's ox or donkey, but what about the Lexus, plush lawn, education, personality, nice clothes, the clean house, the children or grandchildren, social status, friends, talents, possessions, or position.
8. God cares about relationships, for God cares about people.
9. People matter, for people are eternal.
10. In the pursuit of riches, things, and fame that covetousness produces, people can pay the price.
11. In the race for prosperity, people are easily crushed in the rush.
12. Do you have any relationships that are suffering or are not what they could or should be because you covet, because you desire things that aren't yours?
13. Coveting or desiring what belongs to another always gets in the way of relationships.

ILLUSTRATION: Greek Fable told of a covetous man to whom the gods granted anything he desired on the condition that his neighbor would get twice as much of it. Unable to bear the thought of his neighbor coming out better than he, he wished to lose one eye.

14. Envy, which coveting encourages, will lead sooner or later to the hurt of one's neighbor, and this is inconsistent with the primary duty of love.

"Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law."

(Romans 13:10)

(*Picture) "Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up."

(Romans 15:2)

"The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love you neighbor as yourself." (Galatians 5:14)

15. The neighbor has a right to what they have.
16. Loving your neighbor as you should will keep you from coveting, because you can't love and covet at the same time.
17. They cannot fit in the heart at the same time.
18. Covetousness is self-serving and self-loving.
19. Covertness is a sign of lack of love.
20. To want what your neighbor has is to put you in front of your neighbor.

(*Picture) "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves."

(Romans 12:9-10)

21. Through His Spirit, He can cleanse out selfishness and fill you with love that puts your neighbor ahead of you.
22. It is a love that is sacrificial that puts others ahead of ourselves.
23. This flows out of the love of God flowing through us to others.
24. The one thing we should covet is the best for others.

“If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right.” (James. 2:8)

25. Covertness grows where love is lacking.

26. Pray that God will give you a greater love for your neighbor.

ILLUSTRATION: Author, Calvin Miller told of a teenager by the name of Arthur Hinkley. He somehow lifted a 3,000 pound tractor with bare hands. He wasn't a weight lifter, but his friend, Lloyd Bachelder, who was 18, was pinned under a tractor on a farm near Rome, Maine. Hearing Lloyd scream, Arthur somehow lifted the tractor enough for Lloyd to wriggle out. Love and concern for his neighbor and friend was the motivation to try with all that he had.

Without self-interest, he did something that seemed impossible.

27. Love can keep us from coveting that which belongs to another.

28. Deal with desire by loving others with His love.

III. DEAL WITH DESIRE BY LEARNING TO BE CONTENT

1. It is very easy for the desire of money and what it can bring to become too important.

ILLUSTRATION: When I was a kid, I would occasionally watch the Jack Benny Show. He did a comic sketch once where he was walking along when, suddenly, an armed robber approaches him and demands, “Your money or your life!” Benny pauses and does nothing. The robber impatiently shouts, “Well?” And Jack Benny relies, “Don't rush me. I'm thinking about it.”

2. The love of material things is a basic sin condemned by this command.

ILLUSTRATION: Kevin Miler said, “When my brother, Dean, was six years old, one of his teeth fell out. He took that precious little treasure and put it under his pillow, expecting something in return. When he woke up the next morning, the Tooth Fairy had brought him a quarter. A few weeks later, another tooth fell out, and the same thing happened. When a third tooth dropped out, Dean had had enough. He wrote a little note and put it under his pillow. It read: (*On screen in a way that looks like a letter written by child)) Dear Tooth Fairy: I have been a good boy. I wonder if you could give me \$1 for my tooth, because I could use more money.

3. The desire for more speaks of lack of contentment

4. The fuel of coveting is DISCONTENT.

ILLUSTRATION: (*Picture) Someone once said; “The poorest man in the world is the one who is always wanting more than he has.”

5. A credit card can be an indicator of a lack of contentment and a desire for more.

6. The line between necessity and luxury, between legitimate enjoyment and wastefulness has become hazy for many people.

7. Part of contentment is learning to manage well what we have.

8. God has trusted us to be stewards of what we have not owners.

9. Learning to be content can keep us from evil desire

“Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’”

(Hebrews 13:5)

10. What we own does not determine our value.

11. The goal should not be what material things we possess, but who we are in Christ Jesus.

12. Jesus warns against riches because they are deceitful and steal the soul.

(Turn to) **“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21)**

13. Temporary things are not worthy of our devotions.

14. Give our hearts to eternal treasures.

15. When you have a relationship with the Lord, you have the promises of His presence.

16. Only Jesus can really satisfy, for everything else is temporary.

“Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income...” (Ecclesiastes 5:10)

ILLUSTRATION: Years ago, Mick Jagger described the plight of man with these lyrics:

“I can’t get no satisfaction, I can’t get no satisfaction

’Cause I try and I try and I try and I try...

I can’t get no satisfaction, no satisfaction...”

17. Just as Mister Jagger recognized, the things of the world will not satisfy.

ILLUSTRATION: John D. Rockefeller, founder of Standard Oil Company, and the richest man in the world around the turn of the 1900’s, was asked by a reporter how much money it takes to be satisfied. Rockefeller said, “One dollar more.”

18. The want for more robs us of contentment.

19. Coveting ALWAYS corrupts the human soul, it never satisfies it!

20. Jesus has the lasting ability to satisfy us.

21. Another song writer had it right when he said; “only Jesus can satisfy the soul.”

22. Pascal said that there’s a God-shaped hole in the heart of each human being.

23. We crave and desire, trying to fill that hole.

24. Nothing will satisfy except for God.

25. His presence in our lives is the primary key to attaining contentment.

26. There is a misconception that getting what we have will bring us happiness.

ILLUSTRATION: (*Picture of grass) **“The grass may be greener on the other side of the fence, but just as hard to mow.”**

27. We need to focus on what we do have and not what we don’t have.

28. Covertness exposes an ungrateful heart.

29. Ultimately, to desire, and to try to obtain, the property of another is to be dissatisfied with what God has given. And, thus, to show lack of faith in His love.

30. Focus with a thankful heart on what God has given us can keep us content.

ILLUSTRATION: If Danny Simpson had known more about guns, he probably would not have tried to rob a bank. But, in 1990, in Ottawa, Canada, this 24-year-old went to jail, and his gun went to a museum. He was arrested for robbing a bank of \$6,000 and then sent to jail for six years. He had used a .45

caliber Colt semi-automatic, which turned out to be an antique made by the Ross Rifle Company, Quebec City, in 1918. The pistol is worth up to \$100,000—much more than Danny Simpson had stolen. If he had just known what he carried in his hand, he wouldn't have robbed the bank. (The Province, Vancouver, British Columbia, 9-19-90; www.PreachingToday.com)

31. If you know the Lord, you have some much to hold on to.

32. Focus on what you have through faith in the Lord.

33. If you are a child of God through faith in Christ, you have much to give God thanks for.

“giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.” (Colossians 1:12)

34. Give thanks often for what you have in Christ, instead of focusing on what you do not have.

35. An attitude of gratitude can help us to be content and be at peace.

(*Peaceful looking background) **“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.” (Colossians 3:15)**

ILLUSTRATION: Mother Theresa, known for her love and ministry to the destitute and the poorest of the poor, told this story in an address at the National Prayer Breakfast in 1994. “One evening, we went out and we picked up four people from the street. One of them was in a most terrible condition. I told the sisters, ‘You take care of the other three; I will take care of the one who looks the worst.’ So, I did for her all that my love could do. I put her in bed, and there was such a beautiful smile on her face. She took hold of my hand as she said two words only: ‘Thank You.’ Then, she died.”

36. One with so little took her last words to express thanksgiving.

37. An attitude of gratitude can help us to live with contentment.

ILLUSTRATION: (*Picture of tents, etc) Someone said, “People live in one of two tents: content and discontent.”

38. Lack of contentment is at the heart of social dissatisfaction and economic troubles.

39. Contentment is something every Christian must learn.

40. You shall not covet, but you can be content.

41. The Apostle Paul discovered the secret of contentment.

“I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.” (Philippians 4:12-13)

42. The secret of Paul's contentment was his dependence upon Christ.

43. He had discovered that the secret of being content was the strength of the Lord.

44. It is not dependence on his own strength or ability, but a reliance on the Lord and a trust in the sustaining Christ, who gives him strength.

45. Paul drew strength from another, for he found a resource greater than himself.

46. His union with the Lord had been his source of self-sufficiency.

47. Contentment is found through trust in Christ.

48. Surrender your wants to Jesus.

49. Surrender to Him and focus on living a godly life.

“But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.” (I Timothy 6:6-7)

50. Lack of contentment carries a cost.

ILLUSTRATION: The peasant, Pahom in Leo Tolstoy’s short story, “*How Much Land Does a Man Need?*” had become a man of property, and his ownership inflamed him with a desire for more land. As fortune would have it, through “chance” meetings, first with another peasant who came from beyond the Volga, and then with a traveling merchant, Pahom learned of vast lands that could be obtained for a relative pittance from a far-off nomadic people called the Bashkirs. So, Pahom traveled to this distant land. It was all virgin soil, as flat as the palm of one’s hand and as black as the seed of a poppy, with grasses chest high. “And what will be the price?” asked Pahom. “Our price is always the same: one thousand rubles a day. “We do not know how to reckon it out,” said the Chief. “We sell it by the day. As much as you can go round on your feet in a day is yours, and the price is one thousand rubles a day.” Pahom was surprised. “But, in a day, you can get round a large tract of land,” he said. The Chief laughed. “It will all be yours!” said he. But, there is one condition: If you don’t return on the same day to the spot whence you started, your money is lost.” That night, Pahom could not sleep. Pahom reached the plain as the morning red was beginning to kindle. Placing his thousand rubles in the fur hat the chieftain had set on the ground, he began. His pace was neither slow nor quick, but as he walked through the land, he picked up his stride, because with each step, the land seemed better. In an effort to include a particularly inviting field, he went much too far before he set his marker and turned. Such was Pahom’s procedure, as he hurried along ever faster under the hot sun, which then began to set. Exhausted after circling such a huge tract, Pahom turned back toward the starting hill, walking with difficulty, and his legs began to drag. His chest was working like a blacksmith’s bellows, his heartbeat like a hammer, and his legs sometimes failed him. Pahom could see the hill with the Bahkirs cheering him on. Tolstoy closes: Pahom looked at the sun, which had reached the earth: one side of it had already disappeared. With all his remaining strength, he rushed on, bending his body forward so that his legs could hardly follow fast enough to keep him from falling. He took a long breath and ran up the final hill. He reached the top and saw the cap. His legs gave way beneath him, he fell forward and reached the cap with his hands.... He died of exhaustion trying to get more land. He was buried there, and six feet was all that was needed.

51. Desire had cost his life.

52. To deal with desire and its dangers, we must learn to be content through trust in Christ.

IV. DEAL WITH DESIRE BY LOVING THE LORD AND DESIRING WHAT GOD DESIRES

1. The solution for coveting is not to replace desire with no desire, but, rather, to desire God and what He desires for our life.
2. As I said earlier, this commandment goes back to the first commandment and putting God first.

3. God is to be the desire of our lives.
4. Jesus tells the story in Luke 12 of the rich man who planned to build new barns to hold his wealth, so he could be happy the rest of his life.
5. The scripture says, **“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’ This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God.” (Luke 12:20-21)**
6. He had put his treasure in the temporary.
7. Jesus used the parable to put material things of this life into perspective.
8. God desires that we are rich toward God.
9. The foolish man had the wrong priority.
10. Our priority and passion is to seek the things of God.
“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Matthew 6:33)
11. Deal with desire by focusing your desire on God and the things of God.
12. The psalmist said **“I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.” (Psalm 40:8)**
13. We deal with desire by desiring His will in and for our lives.
14. James tells us that God desires that we live a righteous life. James 1:20
15. God’s desires are spiritual, that we live by His Spirit and stay in step with His Spirit.
16. Paul wrote, **“So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.” (Galatians 5:16)**
17. God wants us to desire Him.
“Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you.” (Psalm 73:25)
18. The psalmist embraced God as his true desire.
**ILLUSTRATION: Reuben Morgan wrote almost 15 years ago,
“This is my desire: to honor You. Lord, with all my heart, I worship You.
All I have within me, I give You praise. All that I adore is in You.
Lord I give You my heart, I give You my soul, I live for You alone.
Every breath that I take, Every moment I'm awake, Lord have Your way in me.”**
19. Let God shape the desires of our live.
**ILLUSTRATION: Thomas O. Chisholm wrote almost 65 years ago,
“I have one deep, supreme desire, that I may be like Jesus.
To this I fervently aspire, that I may be like Jesus.
I want my heart His throne to be, so that a watching world may see
His likeness shining forth in me. I want to be like Jesus.”**
20. Surrender your lives, your selfishness, your dreams, your desires, surrender everything at the altar of surrender.
“Since, then. You have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right of God. Set our minds on things above, not on earthly things.” (Colossians 3:1-2)
21. God’s desire for your life is first and foremost that you know Him.

22. Paul said, **“I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.”**

(Philippians 4:10-11)

23. God’s desire first and foremost is that you know Him.
24. That you know Him as Redeemer and Friend.
25. That you know Him as Savior and Lord.
26. That you know Him as your strength and sustainer.
27. That you know Him as He really is.
28. Do you know Him?
29. Do you love Him with all of your heart, soul, body and mind?
30. We love Him because He first loved us.
31. God loves you with all of His love.
32. The Ten Commandments are written out of love for His people and out of love for you.

ILLUSTRATION: A long time ago, a love-struck young man wrote a love letter to his new bride. James Bracy was his name and he was stationed at a California Military base thousands of miles away from his wife. Even so, they kept their ties strong through their love letters. But, this letter didn’t get delivered. Somehow, it was lost, lodged between two walls in Fort Ord’s mailroom in San Francisco. A half century later, James and Sallie Bracy celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They were relaxing in the living room when their song, “Once in a While,” began to play on the radio. Sallie remembered the 1950’s song and how she used to get calls and letters from the man who owned her heart. They joked together, knowing there would be no letter or phone call this time because James was at her side. Meanwhile, a construction crew was dismantling the old Post Office at Fort Ord, and they discovered a long-forgotten letter from a young army corporal. The crew turned the letter over to Bob Spadoni, the postmaster in nearby Monterey. Spadoni began the process of delivering that letter, tracking down the Bracys through Post Office records and phone books. Just a few days after hearing their song, the letter, dated January 28, 1955, was delivered to Sallie Bracy. It brought tears to her eyes, and she again became a love-struck 22-year-old. “It meant a lot to me then,” Sallie said. “It means even more now.” (Drew Zahn, assistant editor, Leadership Journal; source: “After 46 years lost in post office, love letter finally arrives,” Jefferson City News Tribune, 4-25-01; www.PreachingToday.com)

33. What does God desire?
34. God desires you.
35. He sent His son to die on the cross for you.
36. Though written long ago, His love letters tell you how much He desires to walk with you and be your God
37. God desires you to be His because He loves you.

CONCLUSION: This commandment speaks to us about something we all deal with: **DESIRE.**

I. DEAL WITH DESIRE BY LISTENING TO GOD’S COMMAND

II. DEAL WITH DESIRE BY LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR

III. DEAL WITH DESIRE BY LEARNING TO BE CONTENT

**IV. DEAL WITH DESIRE BY LOVING THE LORD AND DESIRING WHAT
GOD DESIRES.**

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