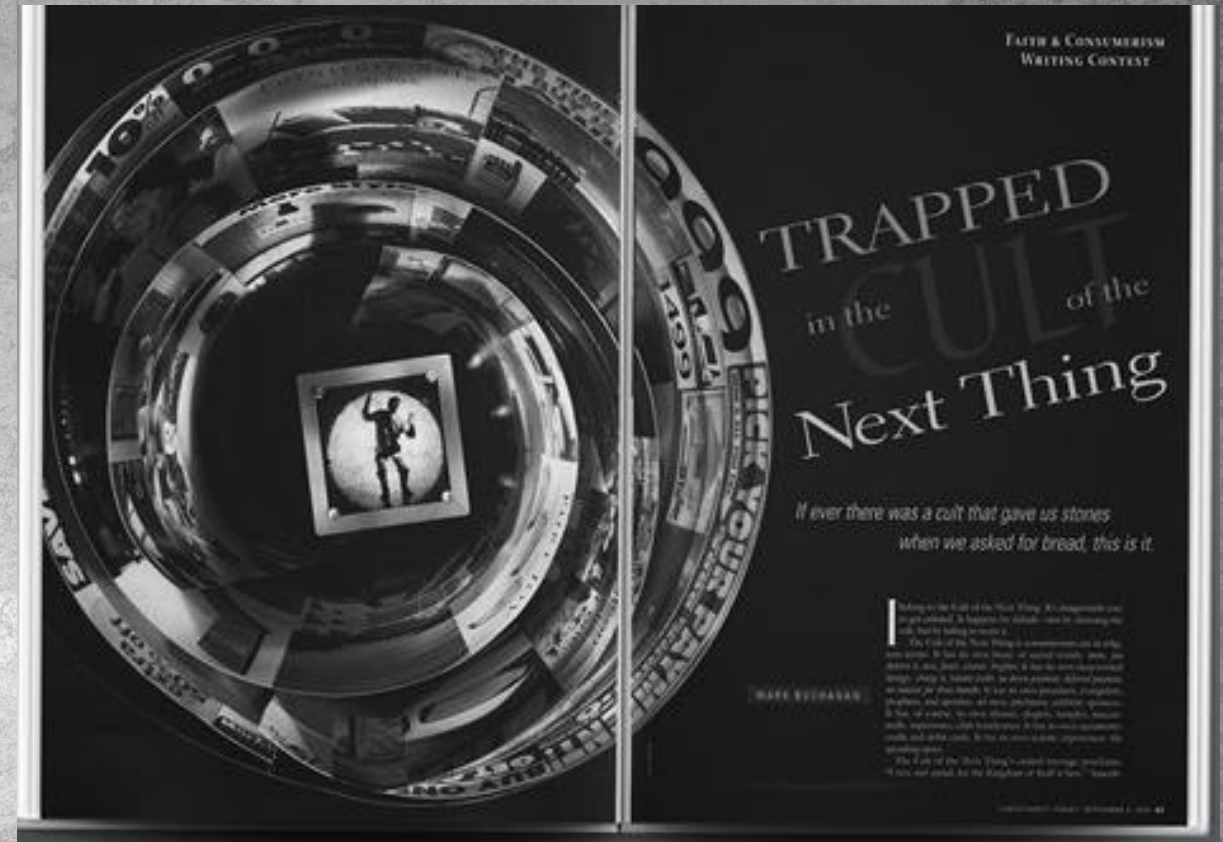


**WRITTEN IN
STONE**

The Tenth Commandment: Coveting

Exodus 20:17

“I belong to the Cult of the Next Thing. It’s dangerously easy to get enlisted. It happens by default – not by choosing the cult, but by failing to resist it. The Cult of the Next Thing is consumerism cast in religious terms. It has its own litany of sacred words: more, you deserve it, new, faster, cleaner, brighter. It has its down deep-rooted liturgy: charge it, instead credit no down-payment, deferred payment, ...



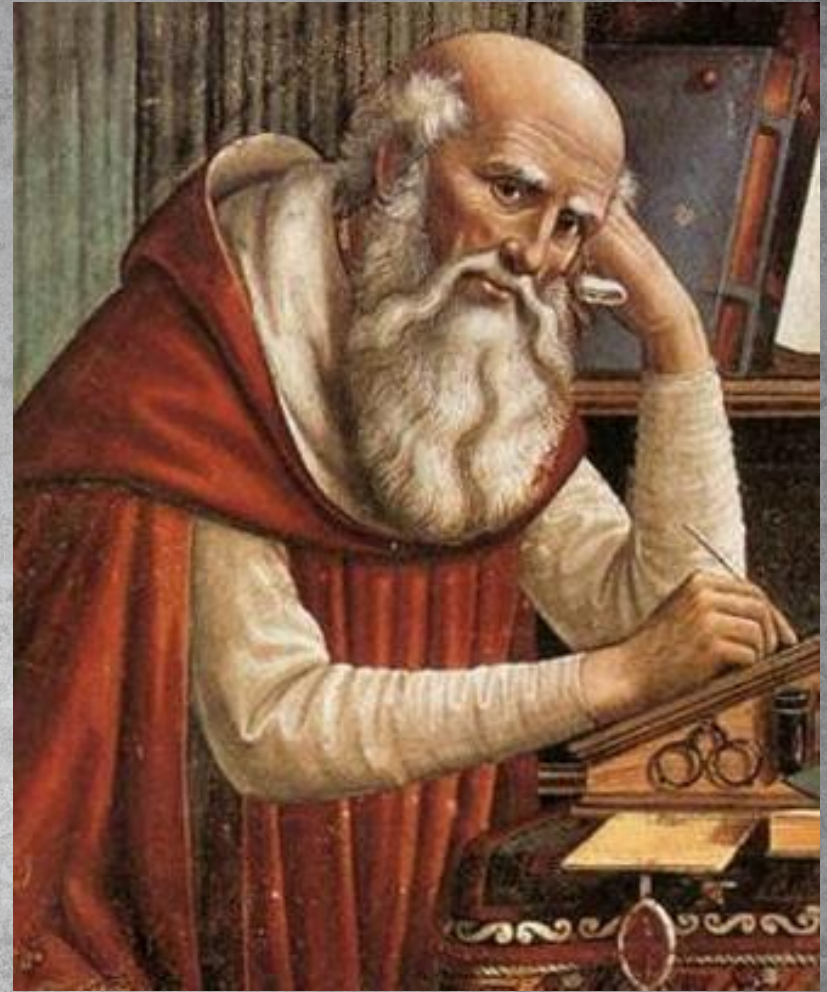
Mark Buchanan

“...no interest for three months.
It has its own preachers, evangelists,
prophets,
and apostles: ad men, pitchmen, and
celebrity sponsors.
It has, of course, its own shrines,
chapels, temples, meccas: malls,
superstores, club warehouses.
It has it's own sacraments:
credit and debit cards. It has its own
ecstatic experience:
the spending spree. The Cult of the
Next Thing's central message
proclaims, 'Crave and spend,
for the Kingdom of Stuff is here'.”



Mark Buchanan

“There was a pear tree near our vineyard laden with fruit. One stormy night, we rascally youth set out to rob it and carry our spoils away. We took off a huge load of pears, not to feast upon ourselves, but to throw them to the pigs, though we ate just enough to have pleasure of forbidden fruit. There were nice pears, but it was not the pears my wretched soul coveted, for I had plenty better at home. I picked them simply in order to become a thief...

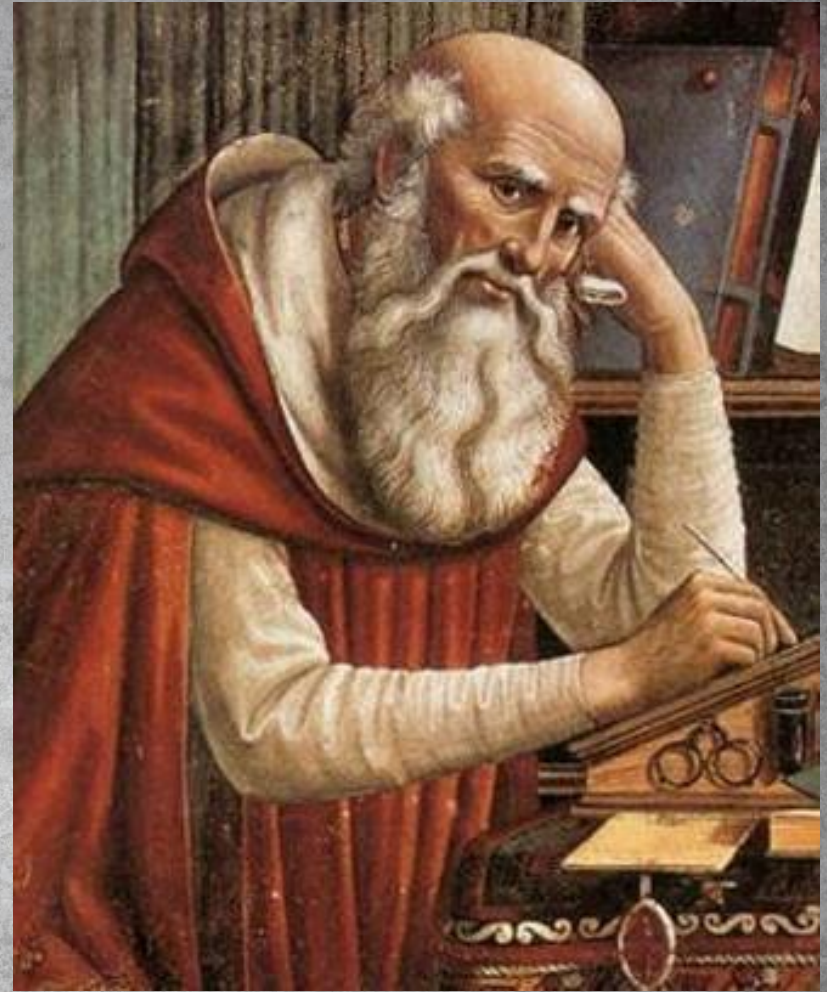


Augustine

“...The only feast I got was a feast of iniquity. And that I enjoyed to the full. What was it that I loved in that theft? Was it the pleasure of acting against the law in order that I, a prisoner under rules, might have a maimed counterfeit of freedom by doing what was forbidden?

The desire to steal was awakened simply by the prohibition of stealing. The pears were desirable simply because they were forbidden.”

(Confessions)



Augustine

**“This last commandment, then,
is addressed not to those whom the
world considers wicked rogues, but
precisely to the most upright – to
people who wish to be commended as
honest and virtuous because they have
not offended against the preceding
commandments. ... Such is nature that
we all begrudge another’s having as
much as we have. Everyone acquires
all he can and lets others look out for
themselves. Yet we all pretend to be
upright...**



Martin Luther

“...We know how to put up a fine front to conceal our rascality. We think up artful dodges and sly tricks (better and better ones are being devised daily) under the guise of justice. We brazenly dare to boast of it, and insist that it should be called not rascality but shrewdness and business acumen. In this we are assisted by jurists and lawyers who twist and stretch the law to suit their purpose, straining words and using them for pretext, without regard for equity or for our neighbor’s plight.”



Martin Luther

**G
O
D**

#1 – Lordship

#2 – Idolatry

#3 – Representation

#4 – Sabbath

#5 – Honor #6 – Murder #7 – Adultery

MAN

#8 – Stealing #9 – Lying #10 – Coveting

Dividing the
Ten Commandments

- 1. Breaking the First Commandment is about coveting another Lord.**
- 2. Breaking the Second Commandment is about coveting an image to represent God.**
- 3. Breaking the Third Commandment is about coveting another way to represent ourselves than by God.**
- 4. Breaking the Fourth Commandment is about coveting your own time on the Lord's Day.**
- 5. Breaking the Fifth Commandment is about coveting your own rebellion over honoring your parents.**

Coveting and the Other Nine Commandments

- 6. Breaking the Sixth Commandment is about coveting your life over another.**
- 7. Breaking the Seventh Commandment is about coveting your sexual pleasure over purity.**
- 8. Breaking the Eighth Commandment is about coveting other people's life instead of the one God gave you.**
- 9. Breaking the Ninth Commandment is about coveting deceit over the truth.**

Coveting and the Other Nine Commandments

- 1. What is Coveting?**
- 2. What Are Some Examples of Breaking the Tenth Commandment?**
- 3. What Is the Godly Desire We Should Have?**

Three Questions

- Can mean **“to desire something earnestly.”** Includes desiring things that are not proper or discontentment.
- Can also mean **“to take delight in or to desire something strongly.”**
Cf. Genesis 3:6
- Coveting is a consuming desire to possess something or someone that belongs to someone else.

What Is Coveting?

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

Genesis 3:6

When you look or think about something,



admire that something



give your will and affection to that something



then move in to possess it

A Timeline for Coveting

*So when the woman saw (LOOKING ON SOMETHING)
that the tree was good for food (**ADMIRING**), and that it
was a delight to the eyes,
and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise
(**WILL AND AFFECTION**), she took of its fruit and ate
(**POSSESSION**), and she also gave some to her husband
who was with her, and he ate.*

Genesis 3:6

Coveting is “to desire that which is wrong to desire and to want that which is wrong to want.”
(Words from the Fire)



Al Mohler

1. Coveting is internal (James 1:14-15).

Four Characteristics of Coveting

But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

James 1:14-15

- 1. Coveting is internal (James 1:14-15).**
- 2. Coveting is selfish.**

Four Characteristics of Coveting

- 1. Coveting is internal (James 1:14-15).**
- 2. Coveting is selfish.**
- 3. Coveting is idolatry (Ephesians 5:3-6).**

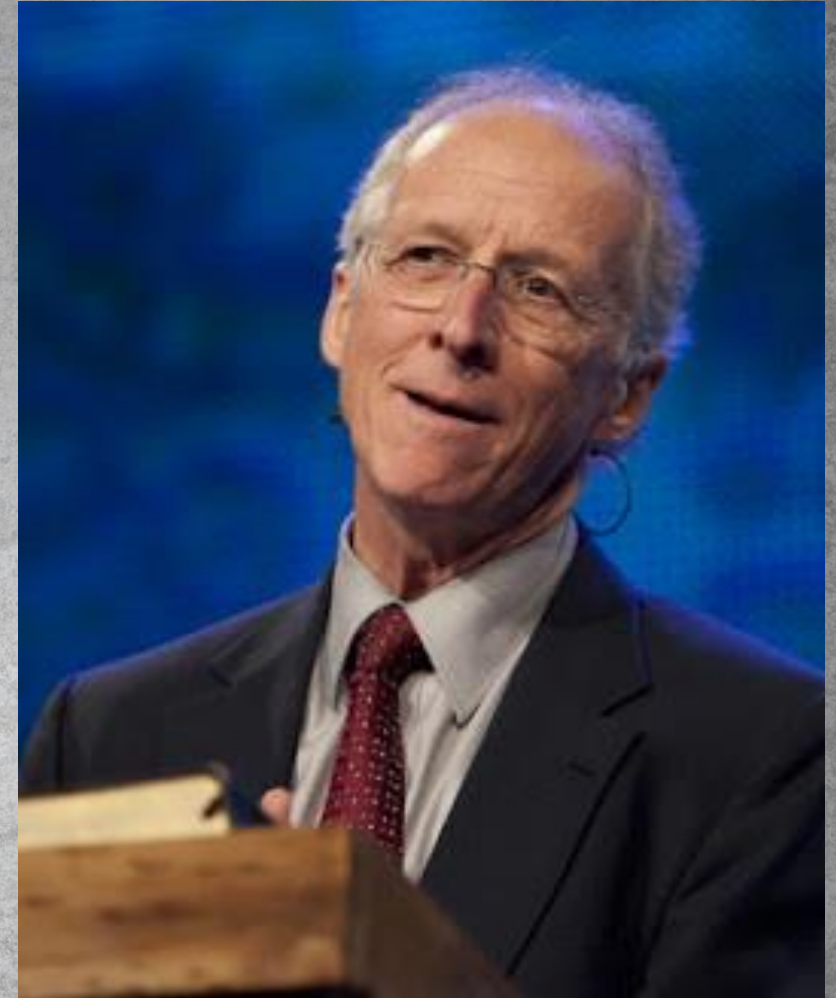
Four Characteristics of Coveting

“Have you ever considered that the Ten Commandments begin and end with virtually the same commandment – ‘You shall have no other gods before me’ (Exodus 20:3) and ‘You shall not covet’ (Exodus 20:17)?

These are most equivalent commands. Coveting is desiring anything other than God in a way that betrays a loss of contentment and satisfaction in Him.

Covetousness is a heart divided between two gods.”

(Future Grace)



John Piper

But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

Ephesians 5:3-6

- 1. Coveting is internal (James 1:14-15).**
- 2. Coveting is selfish.**
- 3. Coveting is idolatry (Ephesians 5:3-6).**
- 4. Coveting leads to other sins.**

Four Characteristics of Coveting

1. Greed (Luke 12:16-21)

Examples of Breaking the
Tenth Commandment

1. Greed (Luke 12:16-21)

2. Worldliness, materialism (Luke 12:15)

Examples of Breaking the
Tenth Commandment

Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.

Luke 12:15

- 1.If you are willing to hurt others to get something
- 2.If you're preoccupied with making and/or accumulating more
- 3.If you're unwilling to give up what you already have
- 4.If you're frequently grumbling

You Have Broken the Tenth
Commandment If...

- **Answer: contentment**

- **Hebrews 13:5 -**

***Keep your life free from love of money,
and be content with what you have,
for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake
you.”***

**What Is the Godly Desire
We Should Have?**

***¹¹ Not that I am speaking of being in need,
for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be
content. ¹² I know how to be brought low,
and I know how to abound. In any and every
circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty
and hunger, abundance and need.
¹³ I can do all things through him who
strengthens me.***

Philippians 4:11-13

***Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing
in the heavenly places,***

Ephesians 1:3

“When someone sets his affections upon the cross and the love of Christ, he crucifies the world as a dead and undesirable thing. The baits of sin lose their attraction and disappear. Fill your affections with the cross of Christ and you will find no room for sin.”
(Sin and Temptation)



John Owen