

COVETOUSNESS

Introduction – We are losing some words from our common English language. Covetousness has become a religious term and replaced by the word greed.

A. To covet is to wrongly desire that which is not yours to have.

Exodus 20:17

Romans 7:7-8

There are various kinds of covetousness, such as avarice, cupidity, parsimony, prodigality, and rapacity.

1. Avarice – The insatiable love of wealth that results in hoarding.
2. Cupidity – It is a inordinate desire for wealth seen in worldly behavior and purchases.
3. Parsimony – The quality of being stingy with one's money and resources.
4. Prodigality – Characterized by lavish and wasteful spending on oneself.
5. Rapacity – A desperate grasping to gain more materially.

B. Jesus told us that we need to be on our guard against all kinds of greed or covetousness.

Luke 12:13-15

C. Greedy and covetous people will not be in Heaven.

Ephesians 5:1-5

Conclusion – Our society has tried to turn various kinds of covetousness into admirable qualities. We must learn to value what God considers of great worth.

1 Peter 1:3-7

Discussion Questions

1. Which of the various kinds of covetousness is most common today?
2. How do you guard yourselves against all kinds of covetousness?
3. Why is Christian faith, hope, and love more valuable than any possessions?