

will come from treasuring such desires in your heart. Turn to God for forgiveness. He can give you a heart of contentment with the relationships he has given you.

#### Discussion Questions

- Why is it so common for people to covet another's spouse? Do you think those who are coveting like this would really be satisfied if they were married to that other person?
- What sort of things can you pray for when you are struggling with covetousness?

#### **Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse**

The third category we are commanded not to covet is another's possessions. The commandment lists servants and animals but then adds, *or anything that is your neighbors*. This is a helpful addition as there is no end to what we might covet that belongs to another. This could include money, fame, toys, jobs, friendships, etc. The list goes on and on. Coveting is sin and ultimately will lead to the destructive consequences that sin brings. Covetousness causes men to work so hard they abandon their families in the desire to gain more stuff. Covetousness causes couples to rack up credit card debt that they will spend their lives enslaved to. Covetousness causes people to steal and cheat, even from family and friends. Parents hurt their kids by selfishly grasping for their own lives of comfort. Children grow up and abandon their parents who raised them because they are chasing their own dreams of worldly success. Even the leaders of the church are at risk. Pastors often are tempted to covet a bigger name, a larger church, or a more successful ministry. Churches are left in shambles by pastors who give themselves over to such ministry envy. Paul saw this happening around him and determined that he would not abandon his ministry for such worldly treasures. Acts 20:33-34 *I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me.*

#### Discussion Questions

- What sort of things are you most likely to covet? Share with one another where your particular temptations lie.
- How does the example of Jesus help us to put off the sin of envy?

# Baptist Catechism Family Worship Guide



## West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, May 25th, 2025)

### Baptist Catechism Question #84

**Q:** Which is the tenth commandment?

**A:** *The tenth commandment is You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.*

#### Suggested Memory Verse

*Romans 7:7 What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet."*

### Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Today we begin to round up our study of the ten commandments. The 10<sup>th</sup> commandment is different from many of the other commandments in that it deals directly with the heart. The sins of stealing, murder, and slander describe outward actions we take. The activity of coveting is not something we can easily see. What does it look like to covet? While coveting may lead to other sins, the actual sin of coveting is entirely in the realm of the mind or the heart. This unique aspect of the 10<sup>th</sup> commandment is what God used to show Paul the nature of his own heart. Before his conversion Paul considered himself to be a very good and righteous man. In Philippians he describes his old way of life as outwardly blameless. What Paul learned, however, is that though he could seemingly control his outward behavior he had no power to control the sin of his heart. The Apostle records his discovery in Romans 7:7-8. *What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.” But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness.* God’s law acts as a mirror for the self-righteous heart. When we look into it we find that we, like Paul, have sin that goes much deeper than we ever expected.

#### Discussion Questions

- How can you tell when someone is committing the sin of coveting? How can you tell when you have committed this sin?
- If God’s law produces more sin in our hearts, how can we be saved from our sins?

### Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Yesterday we saw that the commandment not to covet is a commandment that deals directly with the heart. Coveting isn’t something you can see. It is an activity that goes on in our minds. We see something that our neighbor has and we want it for ourselves. While coveting starts in the heart, it doesn’t often stay there. Jesus teaches us that what is present in our hearts will work its way out into our actions. Luke 6:45 *The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.* The same sort of thing happens when we covet. What starts in our minds ends up playing out in other sins that we outwardly commit. James links the coveting and desires of our hearts to other commandments that we end up breaking. James 4:2 *You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel.* Coveting leads to breaking the sixth commandment when we murder. It leads to breaking the eighth commandment when we steal what isn’t ours. It leads to breaking the ninth commandment when we slander those who we look on with envy. We might even see this sin at play in the very first pages of the Bible. Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit because they coveted the position and authority of God.

#### Discussion Questions

- Can you connect coveting to each of the other nine commandments?
- How does the gospel deal with the sin that goes on in our hearts?

### Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

What kind of house do you live in? Is it small or large? How many rooms does it have? Have you ever tried to describe your house to others who have not yet been there? Our houses are something we use every day. They define where we live, who we live with, and how we go about our days. Have you thought much about how blessed you are that God has given you the house you have? Often we tend to think less about how thankful we are for the house we have. Rather we think more about what we would like to change about where we live. These desires for more and discontent can so easily turn into coveting the houses that others possess. Micah 2:1-2 *Woe to those who devise wickedness and work evil on their beds! When the morning dawns, they perform it, because it is in the power of their hand. They covet fields and seize them, and houses, and take them away; they oppress a man and his house, a man and his inheritance.* When you are tempted to be discontent; when envy for other’s houses or way of life consumes you, consider instead the words of Paul. Philippians 4:11-13 *I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. 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. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*

#### Discussion Questions

- What are you thankful to God for about where you live? Are there certain things that you desire in a home that are causing you to be discontent?
- Pray that God would grant you the contentment of Paul.

### Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The second of the things listed in the tenth commandment that we are not to covet is, you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife. Coveting of another man’s wife has been a source of sin from early in the history of the world. It isn’t limited to men either. The commandment applies just as strongly to women who are not to covet another woman’s husband. Just as we can be discontent with our houses, or other possessions, we can easily become discontent with the spouse God has given us. We can start looking around and thinking about how nice it would be to have a spouse who is prettier, kinder, smarter, richer, or any other thing that our spouse lacks. This doesn’t just start when we get married. Often young singles find themselves coveting the dating or courting relationships that their fellow single people have. This sort of selfish thinking leads to destroyed friendships. In the case of married couples it can lead to adultery and possible divorce. The Bible warns of the enticement that coveting brings. Proverbs 5:3-4 *For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil, but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword.* If you find yourself coveting another person, there is no good that