

UPPER ROOM ADULT BIBLE CLASS

Fall/Winter, 2018

Pastor Jim Otte

“Foundational Truth for a Confused World: The Ten Commandments”

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Session Twenty-Five:

9th Commandment – You shall not covet your neighbor’s house.

We should fear and love God that we may not craftily seek to get our neighbor’s inheritance or house, nor obtain it by show of right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

10th Commandment – You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his cattle, nor anything that is your neighbor’s. We should fear and love God that we may estrange, force, or entice away from our neighbor his wife, servants, or cattle, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

a. What does it mean to “covet?”

a. To hold a deep desire for someone or something belonging to someone else.

b. **James 1:13-16.** *When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴ but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. ¹⁶ Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters.*

i. “is tempted”

1. Being lured with the hook embedded, but out of sight

ii. “dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.”

1. A pre-existing condition: the pull of self-gratification

iii. “conceived...gives birth to sin”

1. Giving in to temptation (Satan’s strategy & deceptions) results in the actions of sin.

iv. “gives birth to death.”

1. Unrepentant sin separates you from God (because it rejects God’s offer of forgiveness), leading to spiritual death.

2. Physical death sometimes occurs, too, as a consequence!

v. “Don’t be deceived”

b. Covetousness often flows out of a heart, which is insecure and discontented with God’s will (the “what” & the “when”) for it.

a. Discontent easily opens the heart to the self-deception of: “I know, better than God, what is good for me.”

b. **Genesis 3:1-7.** *Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,³ but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”⁴ “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman.⁵ “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”⁶ 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.⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.*

- i. “Did God really say” – Satan approached Eve, tapping into her discontent with what God had provided and prohibited.
- ii. “and you must not touch it” – Eve had already added an extra prohibition, which God had not mandated.
- iii. “You will not certainly die” – Satan’s strategy of deception was to make rational promises of his own
- iv. “you will be like God” – the ultimate solution for insecurity and discontent is to be able to control everything and everyone, i.e. be like God.
- v. “and also desirable for gaining wisdom” – a self-justification for engaging in sinful activity.

c. Discontent & insecurity render you vulnerable to believing that inner peace can be gained ONLY if you can control your external circumstances.

a. **Matthew 4:1-11.** *Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted^[a] by the devil.² After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.³ The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”⁴ Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man*

shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.^{1[b]}

- i. **Satan's strategy:** Tap into normal, human discontent with the current circumstance (hunger).*
- ii. **Undercurrent message:** "You'll be happy, if you use your power to serve yourself and not God."*
- iii. **What's the deception?***

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶ "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."^{1[c]} ⁷ Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test."^{1[d]}

- i. **Satan's strategy:** Tap into normal, human desire to be liked and approved of (popularity).*
- ii. **Undercurrent message:** "Think how many followers you'll have and all the good you can accomplish."*
- iii. **What's the deception?***

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'^{1[e]} ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

- iv. **Satan's strategy:** Tap into the normal, human pursuit of security through prosperity.*
- v. **Undercurrent message:** "Having more will be enough."*
- vi. **What's the deception?***

d. Contentment is an inner peace, which trusts (centers its security in) God's will (the "what" & the "when"), no matter what the external conditions might be.

- a. **Philippians 4:10-13.** I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. ¹¹ I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹² 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. ¹³ I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

- i. “I have learned to be content”* – learning through experiences
- ii. “in need...have plenty”* – of gaining and losing, daily
- iii. “I can do all this”* – living and doing (versus dying and giving up)
- iv. “through Him who gives me strength”* – trusting in Jesus and the power of His grace.