



## The Principle of Contentment

### Robert Morris

**Focus** The tenth commandment says that you should not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor. Satan can make something look good that does not belong to you, so you develop a strong desire that is not from God. God's commandment to not covet is to strengthen our relationship with Him through trust and contentment.

**Fun** Can you name a job or hobby that is fun for you, though for others it might seem like drudgery?

**Review** Key Scriptures: Exodus 20:17; Deuteronomy 5:21; Genesis 3:6; 1 Corinthians 5:11; Ephesians 5:3; Philippians 4:11; Psalm 37:4

#### 1. What is coveting?

The word *covet* means to strongly desire anything that belongs to someone else. When you covet something that God has not provided, it causes resentment against God. You no longer trust Him for provision. When you desire something more than your relationship with God, it becomes an idol.

#### 2. Contentment vs. Contention

Contentment is a state of satisfaction, and contention is a struggle or competition. Comparison without contentment can cause you to be dissatisfied with what you have, so you look at what someone else has and see yourself as inferior or superior.

#### 3. Delight Before Desires

When you delight and trust God first for provision, He will put the right desires in your heart. Contentment comes from trusting God for provision, and it prevents covetousness.

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** Encourage your group to trust God to provide for all things. Take some time to delight in the Lord. Before the meeting, make a short list of God's scriptural promises to supply needs. As you read each one, agree in prayer for His fulfillment of each promise. Thank Him in advance for His provision.

### **Discuss**

1. Why would a person covet something that does not belong to him? How does it lead to resentment? Colossians 3:5 says covetousness is idolatry. How so?
2. Read Deuteronomy 5:21. Equate the things listed in God's commandment with today's standards. What are the consequences of covetousness? What is the remedy in Psalm 37:4?
3. Explain the difference between good desires and covetousness. What questions should we ask ourselves to find out whether a desire is from God or a result of discontent with His provision?
4. Read Genesis 3:6. Why did Adam and Eve decide to take the fruit that did not belong to them? In what ways do we apply their reasons today?
5. What are the causes for covetousness given in 2 Corinthians 10:12? How can comparison become a form of discontent? Why would contention influence what a person thinks in his heart?
6. In Luke 12:15, Jesus warns us to beware of covetousness because life does not exist in abundant possessions. Name some ways that contentment with God's provision shows our trust in God above possessions.
7. What is God's promise in Psalm 84:11? What assurance of contentment does Hebrews 13:5 give?

**Take Home** As we conclude, remember the following:

- When we delight ourselves in the Lord, He gives us right desires in our heart.
- Covetousness is a serious sin, listed with sexual immorality and impurity in the Bible.

- Desiring things outside of God's provision leads to idolatry.
- Delighting in the Lord keeps us from coveting people and property.

**Prayer**

Father, Your Word promises that You will never leave us. Thank You for making us joint heirs in the body of Christ. Our contentment in Your provision grows as we trust You in all things. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**\*New Leader Tip\*** Graciousness can override any feelings of disparity within your group. Your leadership can set an example of genuine acceptance, so members will want to share more openly from their hearts. Love precedes correction.