

# The Cure for Covetousness: Cherishing Christ

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Colossians 3:1-5



Jeremiah 2:13

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for my people have committed **two evils**:  
**they have forsaken me**, the fountain of living waters,  
**and hewed out cisterns for themselves**,  
broken cisterns that can hold no water.

## Deuteronomy 5:7, 21

1. You shall have no other gods before me... (Be satisfied in God!)

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10. You shall not covet... (Be satisfied in God!)



A desire distorted in direction



COVETING / IDOLATRY

"I want the  
wrong thing"



A desire distorted in degree

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**Desire**



**"I Want  
a good  
thing"**



**COVETING / IDOLATRY**

**"I Need  
this good  
thing!"**



- 1) I'm not content without it
- 2) I'm willing to sin to get it



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*Because covetousness is desiring something so much that we lose our contentment in God, our only hope for curing covetousness and all of its manifestations is to cherish Jesus Christ as far superior and to delight in Him.*



## Colossians 3:1-5

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<sup>1</sup> If then you have been raised with Christ, keep seeking the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

<sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

<sup>3</sup> For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

<sup>5</sup> Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.



# How do I cherish Christ?

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- Desire Jesus above all (vs 1)
- Direct your thoughts to a preoccupation with Christ (vs 2)
- Dwell on the reality of your union with Christ (vs 3-4)
- Destroy the temptation to value anything above Jesus (vs 5)



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# The Cure for Covetousness: Cherishing Christ

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- Desire Jesus above all
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It is unchristian to be indifferent toward  
Jesus Christ and not desire Him



# The Cure for Covetousness: Cherishing Christ

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- Desire Jesus above all
  - Ongoing desire for Jesus is fundamental to Christianity
  - This kind of desire diminishes sinful desire and kills covetousness

<sup>1</sup> If then you have been raised with Christ, keep seeking the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.



Matthew 13:44-46

<sup>44</sup> "The kingdom of heaven is like a **treasure** hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and **from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has** and buys that field.

<sup>45</sup> "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, <sup>46</sup> and **upon finding one pearl** of great value, **he went and sold all that he had** and bought it.



Is Jesus your treasure?



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- Direct your thoughts to a preoccupation with Christ

<sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.



When we are deliberately preoccupied with Christ and His words to us, our desires and affections are stirred by the Holy Spirit so that we see Him for the treasure He truly is.



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- Direct your thoughts to a preoccupation with Christ
- Dwell on the *reality* of your union with Christ

<sup>3</sup> For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.



Is Christ your life?

Or is He merely an accessory to your life?



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5 **Put to death** therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and **covetousness, which is idolatry.**



When we allow our hearts to safely harbor desires that are distorted in degree or direction, we are actively working against our capacity to cherish Christ and find our satisfaction in Him.

Psalm 4:7

“You have put gladness in my heart,  
More than when their grain and new wine abound.”

*The joy of delighting in Christ far exceeds the temporary joy of prosperity and satisfaction in the world.*



# Reflection Questions

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- Do your desires for other things diminish your desire for the Lord? Does a lack of interest in the Lord result in desiring other things more than Him? How can you tell?
- Have you considered that all of your sins (“addictions”, “bad habits”, “strongholds”, etc.) are the result of prizing something more than Jesus? How can understanding this help you turn from sinful habits?
- Do you want to desire Jesus and delight in Him more than anything else?
  - If you want to but don’t know how or feel like you can’t, ask for help! We are all there at times and there are many brothers and sisters who can assure you that Jesus is supremely satisfying.
  - If you don’t want to because you desire other things more than Christ, then you may not be a Christian. Delight in Jesus is more fundamental to Christianity than a decision to “accept Christ” or even obedience to His commands.



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