



Deuteronomy

A Call to Covenant Renewal



The 10th Word: You Shall Not Covet

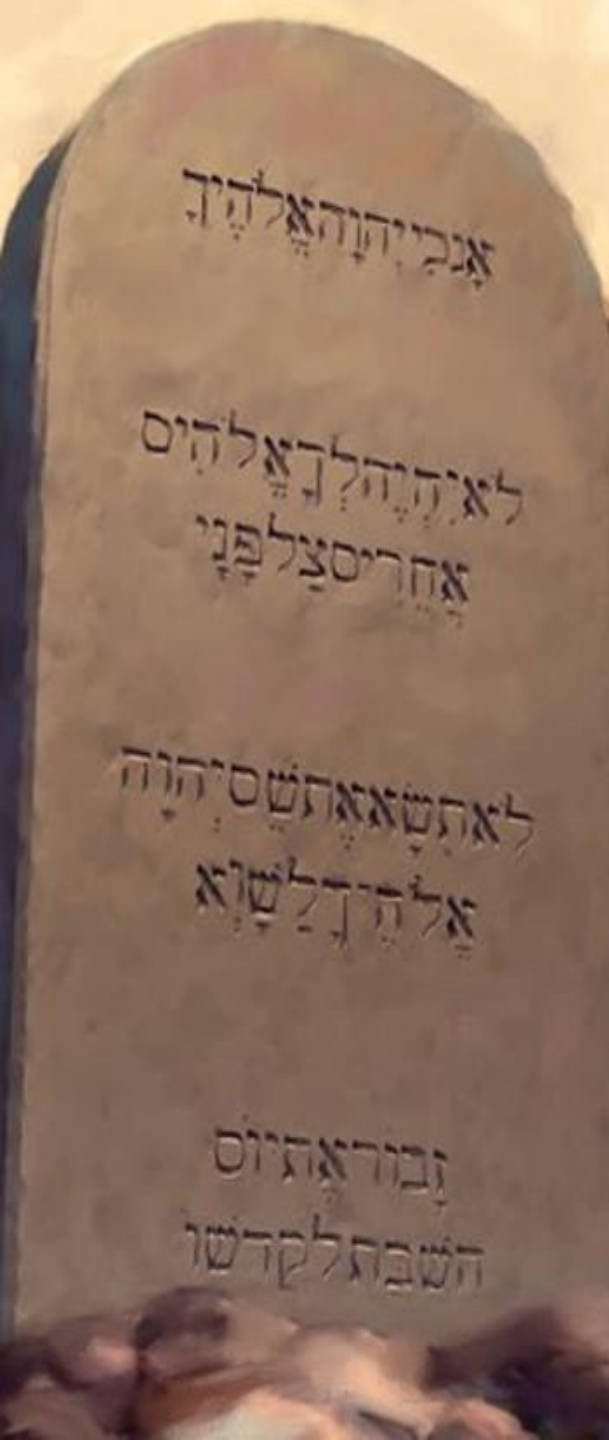
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And you shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
And you shall not desire your neighbor's house,
his field, or his male servant, or his female servant,
his ox, or his donkey, or anything
that is your neighbor's.

Main Idea

The 10th Word teaches that the LORD is perfectly pure in His thoughts, desires, and intentions; and it requires that we pursue purity and do not desire anything that has not been given *to* us or *for* us by God.



Do Not Covet

What is coveting?

What is coveting?

Coveting is evil *desire*.

The meaning of the word?

Hamad = be pleasant, desire.

Genesis 2:9

And out of the ground the LORD God caused to grow every tree that is **pleasing** to the sight and good for food.

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every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food.

Clearly there is *good* desire.

The Lord intended that we be pleased
by and delight in His gifts to us.

But *evil* desire entered in!

Genesis 3:6

When the woman saw that the tree was good for food,
and that it was a delight to the eyes,
and that the tree was **desirable** to make one wise...

This desire was evil because
it was **self**-oriented and opposed
to God's program.

Important Note:

Contrary to what our world believes, *desires* themselves can be evil even if not acted upon.

Proverbs 21:10

The soul of the wicked *desires* evil.

1 Corinthians 10:6

Now these things happened as examples for us,
that we should not crave evil things,
as they also craved.

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Now these things happened as examples for us,
that we **should not crave** evil things,
as they also craved.

Notice that it is the craving
of evil things that is wrong!

What is coveting?

Coveting is evil desire.

Coveting is the *heart*
of every other sin.

Micah 2:1-2

Woe to those who scheme iniquity,
Who work out evil on their beds!
When morning comes, they do it,
For it is in the power of their hands.
They covet fields and then seize them,
And houses, and take them away.
They rob a man and his house,
A man and his inheritance.

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Desire precedes the sin!

James 1:14-15

But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.

Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

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Examples:

Desiring vengeance —————> Murder

Desiring another woman —————> Adultery

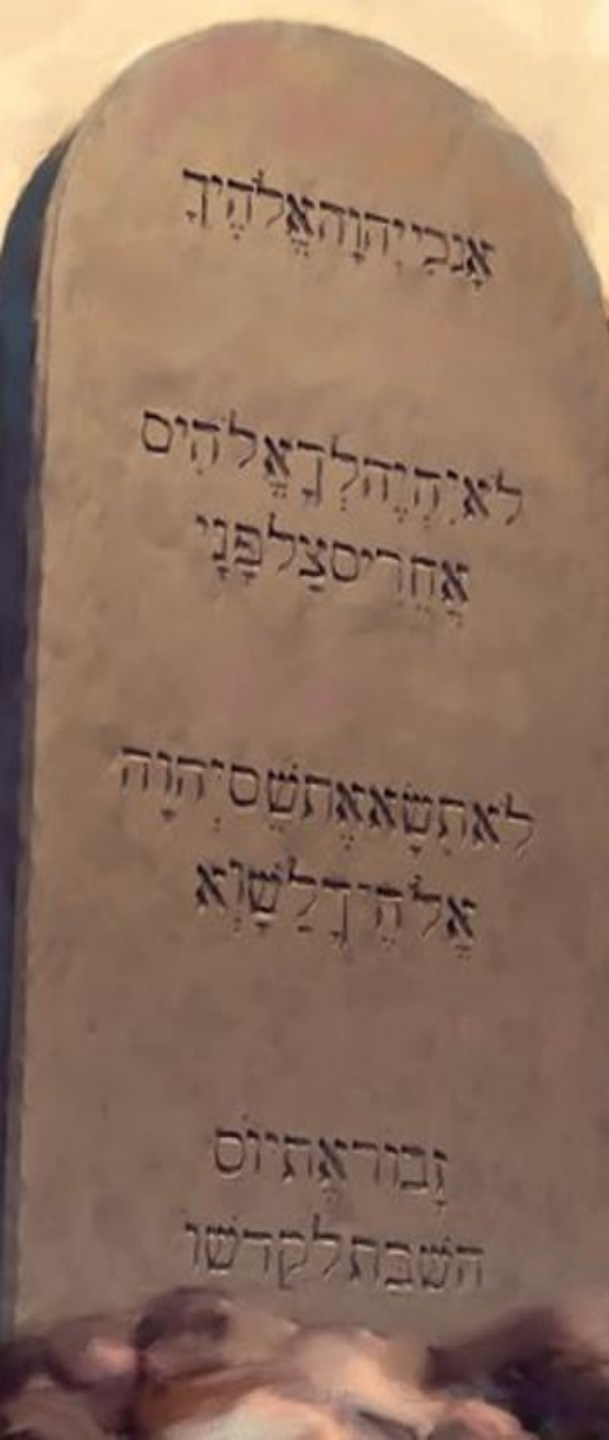
Desiring your neighbor's stuff —————> Stealing

As the last of the ten Words,
coveting is presented as that
which undergirds every other sin.

Do Not Covet

What is coveting?

**So, what does the
10th Word require?**



What does the 10th Word require?

That you do not desire *anything* that
God has not given *to* you or *for* you.

Deuteronomy 5:21

And **you shall not covet** your neighbor's wife.

And you shall not desire your neighbor's house,
his field, or his male servant, or his female servant,
his ox, or his donkey, or anything
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A Specific Example

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his field, or his male servant, or his female servant,
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that is your neighbor's.

Here is the heart of adultery!

Jeremiah 5:7-8

Why should I pardon you? Your sons have forsaken Me
and sworn by those who are not gods.

When I had fed them to the full,
they committed adultery and trooped to the harlot's house.

They were well-fed lusty horses,
each one neighing after his neighbor's wife.

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each one **neighing** after his neighbor's wife.

What did Jesus say?

Matthew 5:27-28

...everyone **who looks on a woman to lust for her** has committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Looking on another woman with
desire is covetous; *she is not yours!*
Covetous lust is the heart of adultery.

More Examples

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his field, or his male servant, or his female servant,
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that is your neighbor's.

God has not given any of these things to you.

The real problem?

Your desire for them reveals your
doubt in the sufficiency and
goodness of what God *has* given you.

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doubt in the sufficiency and
goodness of what God *has* given you.

This is the heart of coveting!

What does the 10th Word require?

That you do not desire anything that God has not given to you.

That you *pursue* purity.

“You shall not covet” is not a command to or an endorsement of apathy or indifference.

It is a command to desire and pursue the *right* things!

Proverbs 15:9

The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD,
But He loves him who pursues righteousness.

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The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD,
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God's command is to pursue purity!

Hebrews 12:14

Pursue peace with all men, and the *holiness* (purity) without which no one will see the Lord.

Psalms 24:3-4

Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD?

And who may stand in His holy place?

He who has clean hands **and a pure heart**.

Matthew 5:8

Blessed are **the pure in heart**, for they shall see God.

What does the 10th Word require?

That you do not desire anything that God has not given to you.

That you pursue purity...
in your **thoughts**.

2 Corinthians 11:3

But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, **your minds should be led astray** from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brethren, whatever is true,
whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure,
whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute,
if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise,
let your mind dwell on these things.

What does the 10th Word require?

That you do not desire anything that God has not given to you.

That you pursue purity...
in your **desires.**

Psalm 37:4

Delight yourself in the LORD;

And He will give you the desires of your heart.

Matthew 6:33

But **seek first** His kingdom and His righteousness;
and all these things shall be added to you.

God has given you the capacity
for passion and affection,
and He expects that you will
use these to pursue Him and the
purity that comes from Him.

What does the 10th Word require?

That you do not desire anything that God has not given to you.

That you pursue purity...
in your intentions.

Psalm 40:8

**I delight to do Your will, O my God;
Your Law is within my heart.**

1 John 3:2-3

We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him,
because we shall see Him just as He is.
And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him
purifies himself, just as He is pure.

All who have Him as their goal!

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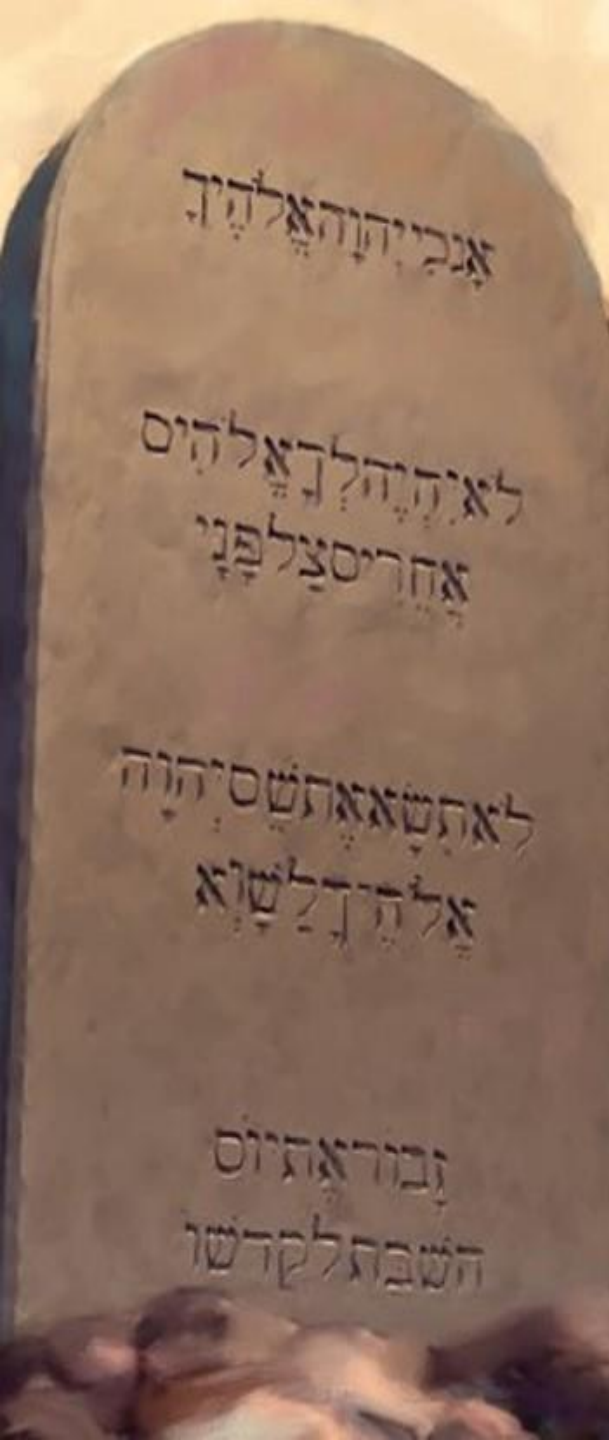
And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him

purifies himself, **just as He is pure.**

If God is your goal,
Christ will be your delight;
and if Christ is your delight,
purity will be your passion.

Do Not Covet

So, what does the 10th Word teach us about God?



What does the 10th Word teach?

That the LORD is perfectly pure.

Isaiah 6:3

“Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts,
The whole earth is full of His glory.”

The holiness and purity of God
is perfect; it is clearly seen all about
us if we have eyes to see it.

Leviticus 19:2

Speak to all the congregation of the sons
of Israel and say to them,

“You shall be holy, **for I the LORD your God am holy.**”

What does the 10th Word teach?

That the LORD is perfectly pure.

That His purity extends to every
thought, desire, and intention.

Isaiah 6:3

“Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts...

The purity of God, is absolute;
He is purely and entirely pure!

Isaiah 55:9

“For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways,
And My thoughts than your thoughts.”

God does not think, feel, intend, or act like us.

There is nothing in Him that is
inconsistent with His perfect holiness.

This ought to give us great hope as we consider His mercy and the grace that he gives to His people through Christ!

Responses:

Consider, are your desires pleasing
to the Lord?

Remember, only the pure in heart will
enter the kingdom of heaven!

Consider, have you owned your evil
desires, and are you turning from them?

Responses:

Consider, have you turned to Christ and put your hope in him, and are you *delighting* in Him above all?