

# The Ten Commandments

Ten Laws for Leading a Life That Matters  
A Study of Exodus 20:1-17

# Do Not Covet

Controlling Your Desires Exodus 20:17

DR. JOE K. TAYLOR, SENIOR PASTOR, SOUTH RENO BAPTIST CHURCH, RENO, NV • MARCH 19, 2017

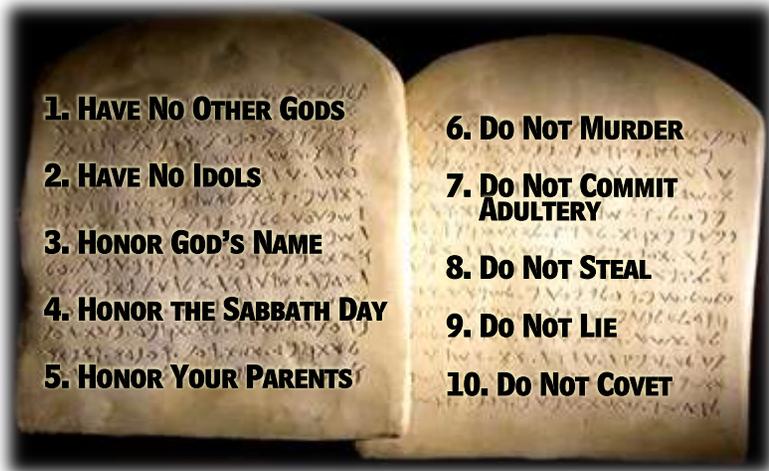
All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pastor Joe's email address is joe@southreno.com.  
In the STUDY VERSE SECTION, God's Holy Word is printed in regular sized text while Pastor Joe's commentary is in the small text.  
You can find this text in your Pew Bible on pages 67.

"It's God's love and grace, not God's law, that has the power to rescue and restore you."  
- Paul Tripp



## The Ten Commandments Review

God's Original Top Ten



There are three types of people in the world: *The Haves*, *The Have-Nots*, and *The Have-Nots-Paid-For-What-They-Haves*—they “spend money they do not have, to buy things they do not need, to impress people they do not like.” - Will Rogers

As an older man, I have listened to thousands of confessions and I have yet to hear one person confess to the sin of covetousness. I call it the “stealth sin”. This is a sin that flies under the radar. It doesn't leave any fingerprints. It doesn't trigger any alarms. It doesn't set off any warnings. It is a sin that can be eating you up and you don't even realize it. - Rev. Francis Xavier, the famous Roman Catholic priest and missionary

# Do Not Covet

Controlling Your Desires Exodus 20:17

**STUDY VERSE SECTION - Exodus 20:17, NASB95** -<sup>17</sup> “You shall not [translates the one Hebrew word for “no” (אין “low”) an “absolute imperfect verb” denoting “a habitual action still in progress”] covet [Heb. חָסַד (tha-mood), Lit., to pant after; it's a ‘desire riot’ (MacClearen); it makes clear it's immoral to desire the wrong thing; this phrase is used here as a *reflective participle*; (eg., it is eminently right to desire and take pleasure in your own wife, but not another man's wife)] *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 belongs to your neighbor.*”

## 1. Covetousness Explained.

### *The Origin of Covetousness!*

**Mark 7:21–22, NASB95** -<sup>21</sup> “For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries,”<sup>22</sup> deeds of coveting and wickedness...

## 2. Covetousness Examined.

### *The Progression of Covetousness!*

**Joshua 7:20–21, NASB95** -<sup>20</sup> So Achan answered Joshua and said, “Truly, I have sinned against the LORD, the God of Israel, and this is what I did:”<sup>21</sup> when I saw among the spoil a beautiful mantle from Shinar and two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold fifty shekels in weight, then I coveted them and took them; and behold, they are concealed in the earth inside my tent with the silver underneath it.”

## Life Application Section

“I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.”

- The Apostle Paul in Philippians 4:11, NASB95

**A. Be glad for what others have.** (1 Corinthians 10:12)

**B. Be grateful for what you have.** (Ecclesiastes 5:19)

**C. Be gracious with others who don't have.** (2 Timothy 6:17-19)

**D. Be guided by what's going to last.** (2 Corinthians 4:1:8)

“Temporary things don't bring lasting happiness!”