

## 10 Keys To Successful Living

### 10 – Cultivate Contentment

Ex 20.17

*“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”*

#### **The problem isn’t wanting “stuff”**

Most of the time the word translated “covet” is translated as “desire” or something similar.

e.g. The commandments of God are, “more to be desired than gold.” (Ps 19)

Desire is what generates value. We value things based on how much we desire them.

The goal is not to remove desire; it’s to learn how to manage desire well; to manage it in a way that is healthy.

#### **The problem is our attitude to what others have**

It isn’t about wanting things, it’s about wanting things that belong to someone else.

The issue is what that desire does to our relationships with those around us.

This commandment is about our internal attitudes to the prosperity of our friends and neighbours.

#### **Things**

*You shall not desire your neighbor’s house*

#### **Relationships**

*You shall not desire your neighbor’s wife,*

#### **Success**

How do you feel when someone else does well?

#### **Comparisons are poison to relationships**

2 Samuel 11, 12; 1 Kings 21

Longing to have something that belongs to someone else doesn’t always end in someone’s death, but it is poisonous to a relationship.

#### **Finding the antidote**

##### **Celebrate success**

If someone gets a new car, be happy for them, celebrate their success, take joy in their achievement.

##### **Cultivate contentment**

Learn to live in the here and now

A lot of our unhappiness and dissatisfaction in life is caused by regrets we have about missed opportunities and past failures, and worry about tomorrow.

Learn to tell the difference between needs and wants

*“Since we entered the world penniless and will leave it penniless, if we have bread on the table and shoes on our feet, that’s enough”* (1 Tim. 6:7, The Message).

Don’t take yourself too seriously

*“Angels can fly because they take themselves lightly.”* (GK Chesterton)