

## The Law of Love

### August 14, 2022

**Exodus 20:17**, *“You shall not covet 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.”*

**Romans 7:7-9**, *“What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, ‘You shall not covet.’”<sup>8</sup> But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind; for apart from the Law sin is dead.<sup>9</sup> I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive and I died.”*

**Matthew 5:17-20**, *“Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.<sup>18</sup> For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.<sup>19</sup> Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.<sup>20</sup> ‘For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.’”*

**Matthew 22:37; 39**, *“Jesus said to him, ‘‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”*

**Covet:** to have a strong desire, to long for, to crave. This can have a positive or negative impact.

**Two practical tests to find out whether or not we are coveting against God, or men.**

**1. I am to love God enough to be contented**

**Ephesians 5:3-4**, *“But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; <sup>4</sup> and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.”*

**Ephesians 5:20**, *“Always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father.”*

**Romans 8:28**, *“We know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God.”*

**Philippians 4:6**, *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”*

**Colossians 3:15; 17**, *“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.”*

**1 Thessalonians 5:18**, *“In everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”*

**Romans 1:21**, *“For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish heart was darkened.”*

## **2. I am to love men enough not to envy**

This is not only the envy of money and material things, it’s for everything!