

How to Overcome the Curse of Covetousness- Part 3 1 Timothy 6:9-10

Introduction:

1. Turn to 1 Timothy 6, and let's read verse 10. What a sobering verse. According to God's Word, covetousness is a deadly sin with very serious consequences.
 - Covetousness is having excessive desires for things that you don't have—desires that have gone out of bounds. Desires that are not guided by a love for God and a love for others.
2. We live in a very covetous, materialistic society. People will lie, steal, cheat, and run over other people; they will do immoral deeds to get what they want.
2 Timothy 3:2
3. This is why covetousness is such a curse to any man or woman who succumbs to it. This is why it is listed in the Bible alongside such things as killing, stealing, idolatry, fornication and drunkenness. It's the mother of these sins and a host of others. Covetousness starts in the heart.
4. How does Satan deceive us into covetousness? He uses the age-old lie that material wealth and possessions will make you happy. People are searching for that elusive peace and happiness. Satan says, "If you have this or that, or if you have more, or if you have newer, bigger, and better, you will be happy." "If you can get that position, that house, that car, etc."
5. But every believer can overcome the curse of covetousness. You overcome lies with the truth. The apostle Paul refutes Satan's lies with three divine truths here in 1 Timothy 6.
6. We learned two of them already:
 - Our identity is in Christ, not in our possessions. vs. 5-6
 - Our true treasure is in heaven, not on earth. vs. 7-8
7. The third truth that will deliver us from the sin of covetousness is this:
True love is found in Christ, not material wealth. Why is this? Because:

Jesus' love is eternal, whereas earthly possessions don't last.

1. Compare these two verses:
 - Matthew 6:19—earthly possessions either decay or disappear.
 - Romans 8:35-39—Christ's love will neither decay nor disappear.
2. In light of these facts, why would we want to love money and material things? This problem is found in verse 10—"*the love of money.*" Material things have captured this person's heart, affections, and energies. It reminds me of Jesus' encounter with a young ruler in Matthew 19:21-22. He was in love with his stuff and went away sorrowful.
3. It's amazing, isn't it? He didn't just walk away—he walked away sorrowful. Verse 10 says "*many sorrows.*"
 - He loved his things, yet they couldn't make him happy.

- He passed up the eternal love of the Son of God for stuff that is now buried and forgotten. He could have been enjoying heaven for the past 2,000 years.

Jesus' love is personal, whereas earthly possessions are inanimate (lacking life and spirit).

1. Psalm 115:4-8 gives great insight in to the actions of idols created by man. Colossians 3:5 says that covetousness is idolatry.
2. When we love man-made money and things, we love idols that cannot speak to us, hear us, care for us, or help us. We love dead, inanimate objects.
 - Idolatry is worshiping anything that ought to be used or using anything that is meant to be worshiped.
3. Compare this to Jesus:
 - Ephesians 5:2–He loves us and has given Himself as a sacrifice for us.
 - Revelation 1:5b–He loves us and washes us from our sins.
 - 1 John 3:16–He loved us and laid down His life for us.
4. Not only this, Christ in His love, comforts us, sustains us, listens to us, intercedes for us, cares for us, and meets our every need. We could go on and on.
5. You say, "I love my car." When tragedy strikes your life, your car doesn't care. It can't give you one ounce of hope or peace—it can't dry your tears or listen to your cries.
6. Why do we love things when we should just be loving Jesus? They can't love us back. But Jesus loves us with a personal love.

Jesus' love is constant, whereas earthly possessions will fail you.

1. 1 Timothy 6:17 says "*uncertain riches*"—isn't this so true? Cars break down. Appliances quit working. Clothes fade and get snagged. Carpets get stained. Dishes get broken. Computers get viruses. Roofs get holes. Houses need painting. Cell phones drop in the bathtub.
 - (Show a picture of city dump.) You know what this is? Stuff that was new that people had to have, eventually wore out, broke, or failed.
2. Compare this to Jesus' love—John 13:1. He loved them to the end. After the disciples forsook Him and fled, He didn't love them any less. After Peter cursed and denied Him, He didn't love him any less.
3. Christ's love for us never changes, it never wears out, and it is never unpredictable—it is constant and secure.
4. This is why our focus should be on Christ, not things. Material wealth and possessions will fail you, but Christ's love will never fail you.

In Conclusion:

1. Mark it down—covetous people are frustrated, miserable people with very few, if any, loving relationships.

2. As we immerse ourselves in the deep love that is found in Christ, we are set free from the bondage of covetousness and materialism.
3. Ephesians 3:17-19 says, as we grow in the love of Christ, not only are we set free from the chains of covetousness, but we are filled with the fullness of God.