

Honor
I Want What You Have
Troy Knight

TALK IT OVER

Key Scripture:

Exodus 20:17 (NLT)

17 "You must not covet your neighbor's house. You must not covet your neighbor's wife, male or female servant, ox or donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor."

Colossians 3:5 (NLT)

5 So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshipping the things of this world.

Proverbs 9:13-18 (NLT)

13 The woman named Folly is brash.

She is ignorant and doesn't know it.

14 She sits in her doorway

on the heights overlooking the city.

15 She calls out to men going by

who are minding their own business.

16 "Come in with me," she urges the simple.

To those who lack good judgment, she says,

17 "Stolen water is refreshing;

food eaten in secret tastes the best!"

18 But little do they know that the dead are there.

Her guests are in the depths of the grave.

Romans 12:15 (NLT)

15 Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep.

Matthew 5-7 (NLT)

Romans 7:1-8 (NLT)

Start **talking**. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- As you think back over the last 5 months, what's been your favorite commandment to study? What's the hardest commandment for you to obey? Why?

Start **sharing**. These questions are to help get your group thinking and to create openness.

- **Read Exodus 20:17**. Why was God so specific about what "not to covet" in this commandment? Do you ever find yourself breaking this commandment? If so, in what ways?
- **Read Colossians 3:5**. Why does Paul refer to coveting as idolatry?
- **Read Proverbs 9:13-18**. According to this passage what makes coveting someone's spouse, ie. adultery, so appealing? How does the reality of v. 18 set us free from deception? Have you experienced or seen others experience the consequences v. 18 describes?
- Troy said that coveting leads to more sin. How does the failure to obey the 10th commandment lead us to break other commandments like the 7th and 8th? How does Jesus words in the sermon on the mount (**Matthew 5-7**) remind us of of the 10th commandment?
- As you think about the crab effect, are you the crab trying to crawl out of the bucket or the one pulling others down? Do you find **Romans 12:15** hard to obey? Why or why not?
- Are you a content person? How can you develop more contentment in your life? What are you doing on a daily basis to breed either coveting or contentment?
- Why is the 10th commandment impossible to obey? Read **Romans 7:1-8** for more insight. What does my inability to obey the law do for me?

Start **doing**. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Embrace contentment by focusing on being grateful for the gifts that God has given to you.

Start **praying**. Be bold and pray with power.

- Give Him praise and thanks for all that you have. Ask for His help in focusing on being content in Him, and not focusing on what others have or what you don't have. And ask for His forgiveness when you fall into covetousness.

Question: "What is godly jealousy?"

Answer: In 2 Corinthians 11:2, Paul writes, “I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.” We normally think of jealousy as being a negative trait or even a sin, akin to envy (see Galatians 5:20). Yet jealousy can also be a godly trait.

Sinful jealousy has at its root covetousness (Mark 7:22; James 4:2). To covet is to strongly desire something belonging to someone else. Covetousness is a dissatisfaction with what God has given us and an obsessive fascination with what He has given someone else. When we covet something belonging to another, we cannot love that person as we should because we see him or her as competition. Lust is also a form of covetousness (Colossians 3:5).

However, there are times when jealousy is appropriate. God is described as being provoked to jealousy over idolatry (Exodus 20:4–5). God is jealous when someone takes something that rightly belongs to Him and keeps it for himself or gives it to another. God alone deserves our worship and praise (Jeremiah 10:6–7). When we give worship to false gods, we commit a grave injustice, and God’s righteous jealousy is provoked (2 Kings 22:17; Psalm 78:58).

When Paul speaks of godly jealousy, he means the kind of jealousy that God has. The Corinthians had a propensity to embrace heresy and false teachers. They had encountered Jesus in powerful ways. He had filled them with the Holy Spirit and granted them supernatural gifts (1 Corinthians 1:7), yet they still tended toward gullibility and unfaithfulness. Verses 3 and 4 explain their problem in this regard: “But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the Spirit you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.”

In 2 Corinthians 11:2 Paul compares his jealousy over the Corinthian church with that of a bridegroom toward his beloved. A bride has promised her heart to her husband alone, and, should she prove unfaithful, he would experience godly jealousy. Paul had an ardent love for the Corinthian church he founded. But the Corinthians’ ongoing tendency toward error grieved him, and he feared they were being spiritually seduced by smooth-talking false teachers. Paul rebuked, counseled, encouraged, and corrected them in his letters, one of which has been lost to us (see 1 Corinthians 5:9). And when he received word that they were again entertaining false teachers (2 Corinthians 11:5, 13–15), he was filled with God’s own jealousy for them.

We can discern the difference between ungodly, selfish jealousy and godly jealousy when we identify the desired outcome. With selfish, sinful jealousy, we are the beneficiaries of our covetous thoughts. We are the recipients of imagined admiration, wealth, or blessing. But with godly jealousy God is the recipient of our desire. We are jealous for the will of God in a situation. We are jealous for Him to be glorified. Godly jealousy wakes us up at night to intercede for a lost loved one. Godly jealousy motivates us to confront a sinning brother or sister when we don’t want to, in order to save them from the enemy (James 5:20). Godly jealousy created difficulties and sorrows for Paul because he refused to stop speaking the truth, even when his hearers did not want to listen (2 Corinthians 5:14). Godly jealousy is love in action (1 Corinthians 13:4–7).