

# Small Group Guide: Greed - The Seven Deadly Sins Series

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## Sermon Summary

This message launches a seven-week series on the seven deadly sins, focusing on greed. Pastor Clay examines how greed hides in Christian hearts, often unnoticed, and how our culture of accumulation has shaped our desires. Through the parable of the rich fool (Luke 12:13-21), we learn that life doesn't consist in an abundance of possessions, and that greed is ultimately foolish because it ignores God, neglects others, and assumes control we don't have.

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## Key Scripture

### Jesus on Greed

Matthew 6:19–24 – You cannot serve God and money.

Mark 4:19 – The deceitfulness of riches chokes the Word.

Luke 16:13–15 – You cannot serve God and money; lovers of money oppose God.

### Greed Defined

Colossians 3:5 – Greed is idolatry.

Ephesians 5:5 – The greedy person is an idolater.

Exodus 20:17 – Coveting begins in the heart.

### Warnings About Greed

1 Timothy 6:6–10 – The love of money leads to ruin.

James 5:1–6 – Hoarded wealth testifies against you.

Ecclesiastes 5:10 – Whoever loves money never has enough.

### Greed Reversed

Luke 19:8–9 – Zacchaeus demonstrates repentance through generosity.

Acts 4:32–35 – The early church shared everything.

2 Corinthians 8:1–5 – Generosity flows from surrendered hearts.

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## Discussion Questions

### Understanding Greed

1. Pastor Clay said, "Greed isn't about the amount; it's about the attachment." What's the difference between having possessions and being possessed by them?
2. Review the statistics shared about American consumption (107 items of clothing, 10,000-50,000 items per home, etc.). Were you surprised by any of these? How do you see these patterns in your own life?
3. The sermon mentioned that greed "hides deep within the depths of our soul." What are some ways greed disguises itself in Christian culture?

### The Parable of the Rich Fool

4. The rich man in Jesus' parable had three problems:
  - No reference point for God in his reasoning
  - No concern for others
  - Overconfidence with no control over his life

Which of these resonates most with you? Why?

5. How does contemplating our mortality (as the desert fathers did) change our perspective on money and possessions?

### Cultural Pressure & Contentment

6. Pastor Clay shared his personal journey of contentment at different income levels. Have you experienced the reality that more money doesn't equal more happiness? Share your story.
7. What does "godliness with contentment is great gain" (1 Timothy 6:6) mean practically in today's world?
8. The sermon mentioned that we often pray for God to provide MORE rather than thanking Him for what we have. When was the last time you genuinely thanked God for what you already have?

## Practical Application

9. Review the signs of greed mentioned:
- Never feeling like it's enough
  - Resenting others' success
  - Hoarding while others are in need
  - Defining identity by what you own
  - Saying you're "broke" while living in excess

Which of these, if any, convicts you?

10. Pastor Clay asked: "Is my pursuit actually God, or is my pursuit money and possessions?" How would you honestly answer this question?
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## Key Takeaways

1. **Greed is about attachment, not amount** - You can be greedy whether rich or poor; it's about the heart's attachment to possessions.
  2. **A sinful world is expected, but a sinful church is catastrophic** - The church must remain the light and salt in the world.
  3. **True wealth is being "rich toward God"** - Life doesn't consist in abundance of possessions but in relationship with God and generosity toward others.
  4. **The remedy for greed is radical generosity** - Learning to love giving more than acquiring.
  5. **All virtues are found in balance** - Neither excessive wealth-seeking nor poverty is the answer; it's about faithful stewardship.
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# Practical Applications

## This Week's Challenge (Choose 1-2):

### 1. The Gratitude Audit

- Each day this week, write down 3 things you already own that you're grateful for
- Before making any purchase, pause and pray: "Lord, do I need this or just want this?"

### 2. The Giving Test

- Identify one possession you're attached to and give it away this week
- Make an anonymous donation to someone in need or a ministry

### 3. The Contentment Practice

- Go through your closet/home and remove items you haven't used in a year
- Practice Richard Foster's principle: "Learn to enjoy things without owning them"

### 4. The Financial Surrender

- Have an honest conversation with God about your finances
- If you don't tithe, commit to starting; if you do, consider an offering above your tithe

### 5. The Comparison Fast

- Avoid shopping websites, catalogs, and social media for one week
- Notice how this affects your contentment level

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## Reflection Questions for Personal Time

1. If I continue handling my money and possessions like I am now for the next 10-20 years, what kind of person will I become?
  2. What does "the good life" or "living the dream" mean to me? Is it centered on possessions or the kingdom of God?
  3. Am I more excited about Amazon deliveries or opportunities to give generously?
  4. What fears about money am I holding onto instead of trusting God?
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# Prayer Focus

Pray through this together as a group:

- **Confession:** Ask the Holy Spirit to expose any greed in your heart
- **Surrender:** Release your finances, possessions, fears, and plans to Jesus
- **Trust:** Ask God to increase your faith that He will provide for all your needs
- **Transformation:** Pray for a heart that loves giving more than acquiring
- **Blessing:** Pray for God to bless businesses and work in the group while keeping hearts pure