

sermon discussion

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MAIN POINTS & KEY SCRIPTURES

Exodus 20:17

RIGHT RELATIONSHIPS ARE BORN FROM
RIGHT DESIRES

GOD CARES ABOUT OUR DESIRES

- Exodus 20:17
- Genesis 3:6
- James 1:14–15
- Matthew 5:21–22a
- Matthew 5:27–28

- Mark 4:18–19

LAWS CAN'T CHANGE THE HEART, ONLY
EXPOSE IT

- Romans 7:7b–8

WE MUST LET CHRIST LEAD US IN RIGHT
DESIRES

- Galatians 5:17–23
- 1 Corinthians 10:13
- 2 Timothy 2:22

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Share a story about a Christmas gift you really wanted as a kid.
2. **Read Genesis 3:1-7.** This passage about the Fall tells us the woman saw the forbidden tree as desirable (*hamad* in Hebrew). The same Hebrew word is used in Exodus 20:17 but translated as covet. What do these parallel passages reveal about sin and our desires or motivations?
3. The first four commandments given in the law can be described as “vertical” in that they frame our relationship with God. The next five commandments can be described as “horizontal” in that they frame our relationships with others. Would you describe this final commandment in Ex. 20:17 as vertical or horizontal? What significance do you think this final commandment holds in relation to the other nine already given?
4. **Read James 1:14-15 and Romans 8:5-6.** It's clear that desire is a natural human experience that is neither inherently good nor bad, but when our desires become disordered as related to God's law, we fall prey to temptation that leads to sin. What are some practical ways you can maintain ordered desires and not allow them to become disordered?
5. One Bible commentary says, “a temptation is an opportunity to accomplish something good in a bad way, out of the will of God.” Think of a time you had a desire for something good that became disordered. What circumstances led you towards a disordered desire? What can you learn from that experience about rightly ordering your desires in the future?
6. **Read Galatians 5:13-23.** Paul writes that believers are free in Christ, but then instructs us to live lives of restraint. How do you think living a life of restraint (ordered desires) is compatible with the freedom we have in Christ? How does a life of indulgence (disordered desires) lead to bondage?
7. **Read Mark 4:18-20.** Rightly ordered desires lead to a thriving faith and Christian life, but disordered desires can quench the best of intentions. With what desires do you struggle most? How can you bring them into proper order and walk in healthy spirituality?

GOING FURTHER

MEMORIZE: *Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.* **2 Timothy 2:22 NIV**