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## The Principle of Contentment

**Exodus 20:17:** You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

- **Coveting-** to desire earnestly; a strong desire to have that which belongs to another.
  - **MSG 20:17b** "Don't set your heart on anything that is your neighbor's."
  - **Genesis 3:6:** So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.
  - **Col. 3:5b:** "...and covetousness, which is idolatry."
- **Greed-** I want more for selfish reasons.
  - **Luke 12:15** Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."
- **Materialism-** I am defined by what I have.
  - **1 Timothy 6:9-10:** (NIV) Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful **desires** that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

### The anecdote to coveting is contentment

- **Philippians 4:11** I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content