

NAME _____

Confirmation Independent Study/Make-up Lesson

Session 11: Contentment and Gratitude

1. Read Deuteronomy 8:10-18:

a. What did God warn his people Israel not to forget? _____

b. What did God say about the source of their wealth? _____

2. Read Exodus 20:17.

a. What is prohibited in this commandment? _____

b. Define the word covet: _____

3. Below is a list of words that may or may not be the same or similar to the word “covet.” Mark each one that you think means almost the same thing (*This is only your opinion*).

___ delight in	___ lust	___ gratitude	___ envy
___ want	___ need	___ greed	___ long for
___ aspire to	___ love	___ have an urge	___ be willing
___ crave	___ obsess over	___ desire	___ cherish

4. Analyze the following commandments—does the commandment deal with an external action that someone else can see or hear or an internal action that is done within a person’s mind or heart unseen by others?

<u>Commandment</u>	<u>Internal Action</u>	<u>External Action</u>
Do not murder	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do not commit adultery	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do not steal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do not give false testimony about your neighbor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do not covet your neighbor’s wife, house, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Read Mark 7:21: According to Jesus, where do sinful actions come from? _____

6. Read James 1:13-15: Where do our temptations come from? _____

7. Read Romans 7:7-8: When the apostle Paul heard the commandment, "Do not covet," what happened to him? _____

8. Read Romans 7:19-20:

a. When the apostle Paul found that he could not stop himself from coveting, what did he realize was in him? _____

b. Did he have the power to change this himself? _____

c. Why do you think people sometimes do what they know is wrong, even though they know they shouldn't? _____

9. Read Romans 8:1-5:

a. Why doesn't the law have power to free us from condemnation? (v. 3) _____

b. What gives us the power to be free from sin and fulfill God's law? (v. 4) _____

c. Explain what it means to be condemned: _____

d. Why are you free from God's condemnation? (v. 1-2) _____

10. Read Mark 4:18-19. In this parable about God's word being fruitful in our life, Jesus identifies things that are like thorny weeds that crowd God's word out of our hearts and makes it unfruitful in our lives: What are these things? _____

11. Unlike some Christian churches which see "Do not covet" as one command repeated twice, Lutheran churches have traditionally seen Exodus 20:17 as two commandments:

9th Commandment: You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

10th Commandment: You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The meanings given for these commandments are as follows:

9th: We are to fear and love God so that we do not desire to get our neighbor's possessions by scheming or by pretending to have a right to them, but always help him keep what is his.

10th: We are to fear and love God so that we do not tempt or coax away from our neighbor his wife or his workers, but encourage them to remain loyal.

Based on the above information in the commandments and explanations from the Catechism, determine which statements are true and which are false:

True or False: Because God wants us all to have the same amount of stuff and to share everything equally, we have a right to our neighbor's belongings.

True or False: Theft and adultery begin with an inward desire like greed or lust.

True or False: It may be okay to want something in general, just not what belongs to your neighbor in particular.

True or False: It is normal and okay to be resentful and bitter towards others when they are blessed by God if we are not being blessed as well.

True or False: Our most important motive for not coveting should be the fear of being sent to hell by God.

12. Have you ever thought, "God, I could experience your joy, if only . . ." ? YES NO

13. If you answered yes, what are some of your "if only's"? _____

14. What kinds of things do you crave? _____

15. Read 1 Peter 2:11.

a. What kinds of things “war against your soul?” _____

b. How should we treat the things that war against our soul? _____

16. Read Philippians 4:12-13: What is the secret to experiencing contentment in any situation?

17. How would you describe the difference between having needs and wants? _____

18. Focusing on thankfulness to God, or gratitude is a way of increasing contentment and becoming free from the hold that our desires can have on us. Make a list of things you are grateful for, and say a prayer of thanks to God:

19. Ask your Lord Jesus how God feels about your gratitude to him, and write out anything you think the Holy Spirit might have communicated to your heart: _____

If you have any questions about this material, email them to christianb@christ4u.net.