

I'm Not Greedy, Am I?

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Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

Colossians 3:5-17 (5b)

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Truth: To win the battle against sin and live victoriously

You must live in light of your new identity of Christ! 2 Tim 1:9

1. What is Greed/Covetousness?

- Mk 7:22; Lk 12:15; Rm 1:29; Eph 4:19; 5:3; Col 3:5; 1 Ths 2:5; 2 Pt 3:14
- Greed never satisfied: Lk 12:15-21 - not content w/ plenty
- Greed puts wrong focus on temporal things

2. How should Believers view greed?

* Greed - a sin to be avoided compared to idolatry and something that brings down wrath of God

- greed & idolatry - those who practice not inherit Kingdom of God 1 Cor 6:9-10; Eph 5:5
- warned to not associate with professors who are greedy - 1 Cor 5:10-12
- Paul's intense warning in 1 Timothy 6:9-10
- greed & sexual immorality together = both sensual 2 Pet 2:2-3

* If Greed dangerous, is it wrong to be rich?

- Wealth is a serious responsibility to do good for God : 1 Tim 6:17-19
- God's normal means of blessing is by hard work Prv 6:6-11; Col 3:23; 1 Cor 4:12; 1 Ths 5:12
- God gives wealth to confirm His blessing & we bless others Dt 8:18; Gen 12:1-3
- Wealth is not evil, just the love of money 1 Tim 6:10; Mt 13:22

3. How can I know if I struggle with Greed?

- Do I view my money & possessions as mine or God's?
We are stewards for God: Deut 8:18; Gen 12:1-3; Mt 25:14-30; Rm 14:10-12
- If I knew I would die soon, what would I do differently?
Mt 25:19 - Oskar Schindler 'I could have done more'. Mt 28:19-20
- Why do I want more money? Lk 16:13-15; Mt 13:22
Fine to provide for your family. Is it need or luxury?
- Where is my focus: making money or my eternal destiny?
Life is not abundance of possessions: Lk 12:15, 16-21 are you rich towards God?
- What is my source of security: money or God? - prove it 1 Tim 6:10
Could you trust God to take everything? War, disaster: book of Job Ecc 7:12
- How much do I mourn the loss of money or things?
Normal to be sad over loss of things, but not devastated.
- Do I cling to money or am I generous & ready to share?
What do you get excited about? Heb 13:5; Mt 6:24; 1 Tim 6:17-19; Act 4:34

- Do I compromise Godly character in pursuit of or keeping money? Lk 3:14; Ex 22:25; Mt 6:1-4
Tax time. Deals - relationships or money more valuable?
- Am I prone to get rich schemes or lottery?
Gambling, lottery = poor stewardship. Dreams focus on what?
- Have I used credit/debt to live beyond my means? Rm 13:8
Consumer debt=living beyond means. Add up your interest payments.

4. How to Deal with Greed

- Put to death... covetousness! Col 3:5, 8
- Put On: Set mind on things above Col 3:2-3
- Put On: love - consider other's need 1st 3:14; let the peace of Christ rule 3:15; let the Word of Christ dwell 3:16; all in the name of the Lord 3:17
- Put On: Eph 4:28 do honest labor so you can share with others & be generous for God's glory!

Discuss & Apply:

- What is the difference between 'being content' and 'bettering my circumstances'? Explain.
- Read James 2:14-26. 1 Jn 3:15-17. How can we tell if we are living too much in luxury versus caring for others? How can we apply these verses in a world where there is SO MUCH need?
- Read Mt 6:25-34. Are things like savings accounts, insurance, investments opposed to trusting God and seeking first His kingdom?
- Read 1 Tim 6:17-19. How does that relate to the diagram below which helps us understand God's plan for believers and their witness?

