

Pastor Ron Case
3/19/17

“Victory & Lust”

*“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
(1 Corinthians 15:57)*

The Core of Corruption

Genesis 3:6 – “So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight (to covet) to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.”

James 4:1-2 – (1) “What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? (2) You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask.”

The Culture of Covetousness

1 John 2:16 – “For all that is in the world— the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world.”

“For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world.” (NLT)

The Crushing Commandment

Exodus 20:17 – “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”

Luke 18:18-23 – (18) “And a ruler asked him, ‘Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ (19) And Jesus said to him, ‘Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. (20) You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.’ (21) And he said, ‘All these I have kept from my youth.’ (22) When Jesus heard this, he said to him, ‘One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.’ (23) But when he heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich.’”

Romans 7:7-8 – (7) “What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, ‘You shall not covet.’ (8) But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. Apart from the law, sin lies dead.”

Combating Corrupting Covetousness

Romans 7:14-19, 22-25 – (14) “For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. (15) I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. (16) Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. (17) So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. (18) For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. (19) For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. (22) For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, (23) but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. (24) Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? (25) Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.”

Dependency upon Jesus Diminishes the Lust-Bent

Strategies:

(1) Thinking Aright

“Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.”
(Colossians 3:2)

(2) Flight

“Flee from sexual immorality...” (1 Corinthians 6:18)

“Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.” (1 Corinthians 10:14)

“So flee youthful passions...” (2 Timothy 2:22)

Questions to Ponder:

(1) What impacted me most from this message?

(2) What are my current favorite ‘coveting channels’?

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)

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