

Small Group/Sermon Notes for High Ways Part 10: Do not Covet.

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- Make sure everyone knows each other's names. Have everyone share a little about themselves and how life is going right now.
- Key Scripture **Isaiah 55:6-9**
 - God's ways are higher than our ways x2:
 - First, God's ways can be hard to understand sometimes.
 - Second, God's ways are much much better than our ways.
- **This week: Do not Covet.**
- Another of the 10 Commandments. **Deuteronomy 5:21**
 - Coveting is defined in the verse, "set your desire on."
 - The concept of coveting is neutral, the problem is when it is applied to the wrong thing. Some things we should covet! What are some of those things?
 - How does Jesus deal with this command in **Matthew 5:28**. (covet is translated lust here)
- I think coveting is quite common but people don't realize that they can and should fight against it.
 - What bad things might happen if we desire the wrong things (**Deuteronomy 5:21**)?
 - Discuss the love of money from **1 Timothy 6:6-10**.
 - Can you reorder your thoughts and attitudes? Yep. **Romans 12:2**
- So we are commanded by God to reorder our desires. That's interesting isn't it?
- To find out what we should replace these wrong desires with let's explore the question: "What is the opposite of being covetous?" What do you think? Here are some possibilities:
 - Content with what you have. **Philippians 4:12-13**
 - Thankful. **1 Thessalonians 5:18**
 - Generous. **2 Corinthians 9:11**
- How far are we supposed to take this concept?
 - Take a look at **1 Corinthians 7:21**. Don't let it trouble you?!? BUT, get free if you can!
 - Ok, but how far is too far or where can this get off base?
- Three hidden dangers of coveting.
 - 1) It causes you to believe lies.
 - The grass is always greener...except that it isn't!! Have you ever wanted something, got it, but it wasn't what you thought?
 - Your neighbor's spouse isn't perfect, etc. (job, house, life)
 - How much did they have to fight/sacrifice to get there?
 - When you embrace that false sense of reality you always feel like you are getting the short end of the stick even when you aren't.
 - Your plans may be only pipe dreams if they are based on illusions.
 - 2) It can cause you to feel justified in doing wrong. (unrepentant)
 - Stealing/violence is just settling the score.
 - They deserve to be gossiped about, the spoiled rotten brats!!
 - If my spouse was like so and so I'd treat them right, but NO!!
 - 3) It stunts your growth.
 - Until you take personal responsibility for your life, you are stuck.
 - See outside causes that you can't control for your problems so you give up rather than fight for creative solutions.
 - Always feel not good enough because you are comparing yourself to a lie/illusion.
 - Stunted growth causes you to be a 'have not' which perpetuates the problem.
- What "foolish and harmful" desires are in us? Let's see those for the destructive lies that they are.
 - But let's not limit the power and glory of God! **Psalms 37:4**
- Pray for each other before you finish up!