

Greed 8 Deadly Sins

When is there enough of money, time, or talent? When is it that we say that we have had our fill of cash and that we need no more. The scriptures warn us of having a greedy attitude which is against the principles of God. Its presence has sent many down a paths of pain and destruction. It has deceived even the most well-intentioned of God's people.

Key Verse: Luke 12:15, "Then He said to them, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions."

Ecclesiastes 5:10, "He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves abundance with its income. This too is vanity."

When is enough? When is one barn full of grain enough, or do we need two?

Definitions

Hebrew: Batsa: Plunder, gain, to be given to covetousness, to cut off; to gain wrongfully or through violence.

Greek: pleonexia: covetousness, greediness for gain which leads a person to defraud others.

10 Commandments instructs us to keep God 1st, and warns against coveting.

An example of a greedy person: Mr. Krabs – SpongeBob SquarePants
O'Jays: "For the Love of Money"

Old testament example of Greed:
Elisha's servant Gehazi: 2 Kings 5

Effects of Greed

Proverbs 15:27, "He who is greedy for gain troubles his own house, but he who hates bribes will live."

Psa 10:3, "For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire, and the greedy man curses and spurns the LORD.

Habakkuk, 2:9, "Woe to him who covets evil gain for his house, that he may set his nest on high, that he may be delivered from the power of disaster!"

Proverbs 11:6, "The righteousness of the upright will deliver them, but the treacherous will be caught by their own greed."

1 Timothy 6:10, "For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."

Where is your trust?

Churches! Why it is important?

1Ti 3:2 An overseer/ Elder/ Bishop, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money.

1Ti 3:8-9, “Deacons likewise must be men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain, but holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.”

Common themes among each deadly sin

1. Focus is on the self (I ...”)

Pride, Lust, greed

2. The heart is the issue. The heart is where the nature dwells

We cannot weigh anyone’s heart. We are easily fooled by people’s words and actions.

We may even fool ourselves, The heart I deceitful above all things

“All a person's ways seem pure to them, but motives are weighed by the LORD”.

Proverbs 16:2

Illustration showing the difference between Greed and Generosity:

- Mary the sister of Lazarus vs. Judas Iscariot
 - John 12:1-8
 - Luke 22:3-5. “And Satan entered into Judas who was called Iscariot, belonging to the number of the twelve. And he went away and discussed with the chief priests and officers how he might betray Him to them. They were glad and agreed to give him money.”

Strategies to combat Greed:

- Trust God for provision
 - Luke 12:16-32
 - Rich fool building bigger barns
 - Lay not up treasures for yourself and not be rich toward God
 - Do not be anxious for your life
 - Consider the ravens
 - Consider the lilies
 - Consider the grass
 - “Seek first His kingdom and these things will be added to you.”
 - Hebrews 13:5, “Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, “I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU.”
- Give:
 - Offerings to church, money to support missions, charitable causes
 - Force us to rely more on God and less on ourselves
- Be Generous:

- Proverb 22:9, “He who is generous will be blessed, for he gives some of his food to the poor.”

Col 3:5 “Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.”

Prayer: Psalm 139:23-24, “Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; And see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way.”

Conclusion:

The potential to allow greed to show up when we least expect it is a potential downfall for any believer. We must be watchful, rely on God’s provisions, guidance and grace to show us how to live generously in faith in Him and not ourselves.