



## General Topics :: Am I greedy?

**Am I greedy? - posted by CofG (), on: 2019/10/28 18:37**

Covetousness from a Biblical perspective is a desire and/or effort to obtain, retain (save or hoard), or spend earthly money, wealth or possessions for personal use over and above our own present need when there is present spiritual or physical "need" that could be met with such treasure instead.

Jesus said do not "store up" treasure on earth (creating an abundance for personal use now or in the future) but rather store up treasure in heaven (spending now on meeting the present need of others). Jesus defined "need" very carefully as food, clothing and perhaps shelter.

We absolutely do not like this definition. It runs counter to everything we read or that is said in our culture and even in Christian counseling on money. However, this definition of covetousness was the working definition for Jesus in His teaching and in His life and the life of His would be and actual followers, especially in the Gospel of Luke. Think of the rich young ruler, Zaccheus, the man with many barns, the rich man dressed in purple, the woes of the Mount Olivet sermon, the fruits of repentance taught by John the Baptist, the teaching of John in 1 John 3 on true brotherly love.

It's all very clear if we want to understand it.

The Holy Spirit has said that covetousness is as the sin of idolatry.

Do not store up treasures on earth is pretty clear. Do store up treasures in heaven is equally clear. Do not can rightly be interpreted as "Do Not". What is not clear is why we, (including me), refuse to hear.

Maybe we could debate what all the teachings on "treasures on earth" do not mean. Perhaps it is worthwhile, however, that we focus on what it does mean.

I realize this is probably the most unwanted topic for any of us to deal with. First, because as a Biblical subject it is old, tired and nagging. Second, it is a subject that has dramatic immediate impact on our lives that can't be easily shooed away. Finally, and more importantly, because it requires us to deal with sacrifice and while we all are seemingly willing to embrace involuntary personal suffering for Christ's sake (if it is forced on us), actually embracing voluntary sacrifice for His sake is so difficult.

Why is it important though? Because the idolater (covetous) shall not inherit the Kingdom of God.

**Re: Am I greedy? - posted by TMK (), on: 2019/10/28 21:15**

//Covetousness from a Biblical perspective is a desire and/or effort to obtain, retain (save or hoard), or spend earthly money, wealth or possessions for personal use over and above our own present need when there is present spiritual or physical "need" that could be met with such treasure instead.//

When did Jesus tell Lazarus and his family to liquidate their assets?

Where do you find that definition as you have stated it?

What you seem to be saying, in essence, is that we are to live in grass huts and eat bread and water (as long as it's cheap grass and cheap bread and cheap water) and everything else goes to the needy. After all Jesus said the poor will always be with us. Even if we gave 99% of our income the poor will be with us.

**General Topics :: Am I greedy?**

**Re: - posted by CofG (), on: 2019/10/28 21:49**

Not sure about your question concerning Lazarus.

And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?'"

And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.

And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry."

But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?'

So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God." - Luke 12:15-21

**Re: - posted by CofG (), on: 2019/10/28 22:01**

Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?"

And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise. Luke 3:9-12

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.

But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?

Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. - 1 John 3:16-18

Todd, Instead of telling what verses can't possibly mean, please help me understand what these verses do mean. I struggle with responding to "it can't mean this". To be honest, a significant part of the time it seems you spend more time fighting what verses can't possibly mean. I'm asking for a different interpretation than the one I'm seeing rather than just kill shots.

The verses speak plainly or so it seems to me.

**Re: Am I greedy? - posted by cup (), on: 2019/10/29 4:36**

Let me make this clear NO!! YOU ARE NOT GREEDY!!!

Do not listen to the lies of the devil.

You know by now that no law can ever justify you, make you holy, make you pure, make you righteous or put you in union with God.

Christ did what the law could NEVER do!!! Christ Himself now lives inside you. Just stand firm in that.

**Re: Am I greedy? - posted by JFW (), on: 2019/10/29 8:07**

Hahahaha!!!

Brother Robert it seems you may have struck a nerve ~

Indeed it is interesting just how quickly responses can be given which clearly miss the point of your inquiry... you are basically saying "come let us reason together" and so far you get a..... No get your hand off my money, and a... you're a law preaching devil! ðŸ™„

Brother Robert,

To your question, the short answer is.... YES!

The long answer is,...

And not only greedy but entitled to be so! (Or so we think)

You are correct, the biblical wealth is in the amount of scriptures that declare this very thing! While it's also true that

## General Topics :: Am I greedy?

being poor in and of itself isn't necessarily virtuous, the scriptures are clear that when a person is under control of the Holy Spirit, their objective will NOT be to amass personal wealth over the long term. The instances where the focus of a persons life was to amass personal wealth (it was the god of their hope) prior to meeting Christ always gets dealt with the same way,... confrontation! Tho because our Lord is meek and lowly, patient and humble... He addresses each person accordingly to provide them an opportunity to see themselves in the light of truth and repent. At least that's what I found in scripture -

It's a subject Jesus spoke about often and with a certain intent. In many ways, how we conclude this issue (money), informs and defines the life of the believer. Actually this issue has really always been about the heart and more than most any other issue, reveals the corruption.

In my understanding, the scriptures are indeed clear on this subject from beginning to end and from this issue forth many, if not all, troubles. The "one size fits all" part (for me) is in being led by the spirit. There are instances where the Lord will instruct to give sacrificially just as there are instances where the Lord blesses His children in a material way also. I have personally witnessed and have been subject to both. The marker (for me) is in either case, being made humble. When the child of God receives and obeys a command from God, the result is always the same- victory over something by the Lords hand. To the child of God this almost always has a humbling effect,... so whether the Lord adds to or subtracts from the life of a follower, the results are the same:) Interestingly, when a person is led by the flesh, whether they pursue and amass earthly goods or give sacrificially... the result is the same - pride! they're puffed up like a bullfrog. Just like a bullfrog they gotta let you know bbbuuuuurrrrrp all the "good" they did by "giving" and usually like to (conveniently) drop into the conversation the amount they gave if it serves to further puff themselves up and they are just as much the servants of their flesh as a person whom is greedy in a more traditional way.

In the end, it is a heart issue.... the scriptures are clear.

Brother Robert, I have a question that may seem out of sorts- have you ever wanted/intended on giving/helping someone and the Lord told you, no ?

Thanks for introducing this topic for discussion.... if the Lord blesses it, it will be bountiful <

Edited to remove-

**Re: - posted by CofG (), on: 2019/10/29 8:24**

Hi Fletcher

The heart of Jesus was to be poor in so many ways so that others would have their needs met. The Lord delights to do mercy and walk justly. So do His children. The Macedonians gave themselves to the Lord and gave sacrificially with joy in spite of their poverty.

The easiest definition I know of love is to meet need, physical or spiritual. It's a love issue, not a rich, poor, how much is enough, am I doing it right issue. The love of God is primarily sacrificial and that is what makes Jesus beautiful. We are called to be like Him not primarily because of command but rather because of who we are as new creations. In the OT God told His children that there shall be no poor among them not because He would bless all materially in the same way, but rather because His Kingdom is one of sacrificial love. Mercy is discriminate at times among unbelievers as is clearly shown in the world but among the children of God there is absolutely no discrimination. We are called to give one tunic to one who has none even if it means we don't have a spare for the future. A fullness of the Spirit produces such a heart. This is all clearly in Scripture.

**Re: ?? - posted by JFW (), on: 2019/10/29 9:51**

Brother Robert, I have a question that may seem out of sorts- have you ever wanted/intended on giving/helping someone and the Lord told you, no ?

**Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2019/10/29 15:06**

Christ taught that one who would follow Him must forsake "all that he has" (Luke 14:33/ cf. Matt.13:44-46). The ceremonial law served as a foreshadowing of the Christian revelation. The latter teaches that all of God's people, having been "bought with a price," are not their own, but are owned lock, stock and barrel by Jesus Christ (1 Cor.6:19-20). All of the believer's time and all of his possessions belong to God—a fact foreshadowed in ceremonial law by the requirement of giving Him a representative token of each (one day of his week, and one tenth of his possessions).

The New Testament teaches "stewardship" (Luke 12:42; 16:1ff; 19:12-13/ Matt.25:14/ Titus 1:7). The Christian is a "steward," or "manager," of God's possessions. In coming to Christ, the repentant sinner surrenders everything to God, and claims ownership of nothing (Acts 4:32). From the moment of conversion, the believer becomes responsible for managing every asset (monetary or otherwise) in the interests of his Lord's profit. Those seeking to preserve a share of their lives for themselves need not apply (Luke 9:23).

So this begs the question: what exactly is the steward's responsibility? Simple: to do what the Master wants him to do.

**Re: Am I greedy? - posted by docs (), on: 2019/10/29 16:36**

Abraham was a VERY wealthy man by the standards of his day (God had blessed him in all things - Gen 24:1) yet in his immense prosperity he was called the friend of God.

**Re: - posted by CofG (), on: 2019/10/29 17:45**

Hi Fletcher, there have been occasions like you suggest but they are rare. Usually, the command makes the action necessary clear but sometimes, the Lord has stopped me. Like Paul once said, if we don't work, we don't eat or only the widows who serve should be served. These are examples of when the otherwise clear command is contravened.

**Re: - posted by CofG (), on: 2019/10/29 18:00**

The rich young ruler who treasured his earthly wealth more than he treasured being with Jesus is a perfect picture of what the real issue is about. One man in a parable sold everything he owned with joy to possess the treasure of the kingdom of heaven. The rich young ruler walked away sad when told he had to sell everything and give to the poor. The crazy thing is that the rich young ruler was a devout Jew. He had already been giving 23 and 1/3% per year to the temple (which included help for the poor). He was faithful in tithing 23 1/3 percent. Yet, he was as far as we can tell kept from the Kingdom because He didn't really love His brethren at the level he should and he didn't thereby love Jesus or His Father.

If we say we love God and yet do not love His children (especially in their need), we are liars or so God said.

I get the steward idea but the fundamental issue is clear. We should love in the measure that if we have two tunics and someone has none, then we give away one keeping only one for ourselves. Nothing reserved for future kingdom use or for our own "just in case" needs. Can't escape that stewardship standard.

The most devastating parable to our culture is the parable of the successful farmer who stewarded his agricultural success by saving for his family's future food needs. He didn't squander the profit. He didn't spend indulgently. He just saved for the future food needs of his family. We would call him wise and Jesus called him a fool. A most dangerous word for that man's future.

**General Topics :: Am I greedy?**

**Re: Am I greedy? - posted by TMK (), on: 2019/10/29 20:50**

I certainly accept all the verses cited related to Jesus's expectations as to giving.

What set me off in the OP was this:

//Why is it important though? Because the idolater (covetous) shall not inherit the Kingdom of God.//

That gets people to thinking they might be going to hell if they have two pairs of jeans or more than one fork and spoon. After all, do we really need a whole set of silverware? There are lots of people in the world who have none.

It may seem like I am being outrageous but covetousness was defined in the OP as having two of something when someone else has none. Taken to its logical conclusion, we could only have one of everything and even then only if we don't notice anyone who may need it more.

I just think that's an impossible standard and in fact I have heard atheists castigate Christians as hypocrites for not doing what the OP suggests.

The bottom line is that we can never ever be sure if we have ever done enough to be sure we aren't going to burn.

**Re: - posted by CofG (), on: 2019/10/29 21:23**

Todd, the warning from Paul that was quoted was a warning to the professing church. It was spoken for the exact purpose you find objectionable which is for every believer to examine themselves and see if there is any way in them or heart attitude in them that is displeasing to the Lord. John the Baptist and John the apostle preached about the standard of mercy and brotherly love. I presume that means it is God's standard unless you are prepared to say it is exaggerated for effect. If that is your interpretation, please clearly state it.

Please help me understand what the two tunic standard really meant. Saying what it can't mean is more destructive than instructive.

1 John makes clear that it is those who practice sin that are not born again. Practicing covetousness on a habitual basis would obviously be a red flag for someone who wants to be assured they are born again and know God.

Besides that issue, there are brothers and sisters in the faith that have no food for their families living all around where I live. I live amongst them. Telling them about your silver set theory is slightly unhelpful. I'm not trying to make anybody feel guilty nor condemned. Just trying to stir up a hatred for the sinfulness of sin and a love of mercy and good deeds.

Warnings and warnings were the truths Jesus and His apostles used to stir up. You obviously have a dislike for God's chosen means.

This is so much more than a theological debate. There will always be poor among us. Great. Now how do we live like Christ amongst them. That standard is beautiful, not oppressive.

**Re: Am I greedy? - posted by Elibeth, on: 2019/10/29 23:21**

Bro Robert,

I know what you are saying, because I have been there,... The Lord deals w/ us,.. opens our fists,.. our hearts to share,.

There was a time in my life,.. that I didn't have very much at all of

this world's goods, but if I even thought that someone just wanted something that I had, I gave it to them. Was there a little tug in my heart for me? Yes,.. but I bypassed that.

Then there were times that The Lord showed me to share and who.

## General Topics :: Am I greedy?

But it is easy for covetousness to overtake us again,.. and not allow The King to rule in our life.

We have been called into a kingdom, where The Holy Spirit is the instructor.

\* But will we say, "I will not have this man to reign over me?"

Has every man been called to do exactly like this rich man that said he had kept all the commandments? Or was that an example of such ?

I believe it was an example for us to hear from God, through The Spirit and to obey.

When "this man reigns over us, through The Spirit of God, in this kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven, that He has called us into,..it may be what this man is called to do,...

It may be many things The Lord, ..The King, calls us out of, or into, ..

We are called to be "led by The Spirit of God.

I believe that is what Jesus was showing / teaching us, ..So.as He speaks to us , about whatever,..DO.

Seeing the consequences of this man, it is dire, that we have a tender heart toward God, and a sensitive ear to hear,.. and to do, whatever He May put His finger on in our life.

"I will not have this man to reign over me?"

\*\*So what is "covetousness?"

Is it "over desirousness" ?....

heart is just full of "stuff" instead of God,...

Eyes and brain, and heart, just got to have,...

But what can and does happen,many times, if this is the case?

We can cheat to have,.. be dishonest,.. commit extortion, (the twisting of someone to get what we want),.. fists clamped tight in helping others that we look to see and are in need,.. except we might do occasionally from a feeling of necessity ..a heart that is hardened to the voice of God.

What is the Word ?

Awaken and renew,.. cry out to God for help.

We know , that we will carry nothing away with us ,except our relationship w/God.

And if we will seek "the kingdom of God" AND His righteousness, (seek Jesus, The King), He is faithful, He will provide our every need.

(Listening ear,.. "What would thou have for me to DO, Lord" )

Did our brother, Paul do this daily ? I believe he did.

...not only daily, but in everything.

"I will not have this man to reign over me?"

elizabeth

### Re: - posted by CofG (), on: 2019/10/30 2:31

The Macedonian church literally begged Paul for the "privilege" to participate in the feeding of the starving saints in Jerusalem in spite of their severe affliction and extreme poverty. How did this wealth of generosity occur? Paul says that first they gave themselves to the Lord. Then Paul spoke to the Corinthian church and told them to show that their love was "sincere" and that they should help as they are able. Ability is based on what we have. Not what we don't have. But clearly, it is based on all that we have available and not just what is comfortable to our sensibilities or fear of the future.

Generosity and love are the opposites of covetousness and self concern.

Turning this into a "how much is enough" conversation misses the point entirely. The question is what does the love of Christ do through us as we give ourselves fully to the Lord so that He can be Christ fully?

"How much is enough" is such a legalistic conversation and is not befitting of Christ's family. We turn a privilege into a "have to".

## General Topics :: Am I greedy?

Jesus said what we do for His brethren, we do for Him. IF we don't do for them in their need we don't do to Him. It is quite literally a question of do we love Jesus. Remarkably, and perhaps a consternation for some, He said it is a sheep or goat issue. That is Jesus speaking.

**Re: - posted by SteveHale (), on: 2019/10/30 2:38**

Robert (CofG), you speak the truth!! God bless you brother!

**Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2019/10/30 8:09**

// "How much is enough" is such a legalistic conversation and is not befitting of Christ's family. We turn a privilege into a "have to".//

But in the OP you opined as to what was enough, and then warned people they may go to hell if they don't do what you said because they are coveters, ie idolaters.

I agree this is a heart issue and our responsibility is to be obedient to our Master in his instructions. Because this is a relationship issue it will look different for every believer, as Elizabeth stated. He will decide who the idolaters are and none else, thank goodness.

**Re: - posted by CofG (), on: 2019/10/30 8:21**

Todd. To be like Christ is to be like Christ. I desire and want that more than anything. What that looks like for you, or Elisabeth or me is the same. I'm sure your Christ likeness as a life to be imitated looks the same as mine.

**Re: Brother Robert - posted by JFW (), on: 2019/10/30 8:37**

It seems like you are a sincere and earnest brother, and your heart for Jesus is well displayed thru your words:) (for me) The issue is quite simple and no different than any other. When the Lord became my master, all that was mine became His including and especially finances. I say especially because Jesus spoke about money allot and as you seem to be saying (unless I've misunderstood) that it is a heart issue and if we're not giving sacrificially we would do well in asking the Lord to show us our heart. To be clear, money is not the issue, the heart is and the money only follows the heart. If our heart is for Jesus, then He will be the Lord of our monies, directing them according to His will.

It seems there are different situations in the world today more than ever regarding access to foods. For example, in my local area we have been able to reduce homelessness down to a minimum and between the churches, local food banks (private) and government services not many, if any are going without food or clothing, etc... Now it wasn't always this way- just 10yrs ago its was quite different, but a group of pastors and believers began to organize their efforts to address these needs. A coalition was formed which acted as a hub, receiving and distributing goods and services to those in need. In just a couple of years the homeless population was reduced to almost nonexistent numbers the people do daily slip into situations of despair and find themselves in need which is why the coalition was formed and continues. This type of organization allows for people to (as the Lord directs) connect with one another combining their efforts and influence. There are different people contributing in different seasons as the Lord draws them together. There are people like yourself that are organizers and are really able to make a difference in their local communities:))) perhaps there's a version of this that could benefit your area?

Also the reason I had asked/pressed you on that question was because that has interestingly become a more frequent occurrence in my life, where the Lord literally tells me, No! We've even argued about it a few times. With one of the more recent situations resulting in Him telling me, "every time I get them to a place where they will turn to me, you show up with a pocket full of money and fix it. Because you believe it's my will for you to do this (indiscriminately) you don't receive my discipline, but now I know you know I'm telling you not to do it and if you do, it will be an act of disobedience and you will answer to me" another situation that happened was a gentleman whom cleans the windows in our building came and asked for money, as usual I reached in my pocket and the Lord said, "No! - I said "but Lord he is my friend" (he is a poor fellow whom I have the habit of giving money to) the said as clear to me as He has ever said anything, "that is MY money and I'm telling you NO! Do not give him any of my money" the situation quickly escalated when I told him the Lord was telling me not to give him any money.... he was upset and began to loudly tell me I had to and began quoting (for the first time ever) scripture (Matthew 5:42, Luke 6:30) and I honestly felt

immense pressure to comply with his demands but the Lord said "tell him I said this,..." I have a blessing prepared for him and just as I told him before, come out of the darkness into the light where the blessing is, it's here waiting on you,.... but if I bless you while in the darkness you will not depart from it so come to where the blessing is so that's what I told him and he became enraged, started hollering and stuttering and mostly making a scene in an attempt to get some money but soon departed, I suppose looking for another source. We are still friends and he still cleans the windows for me, but he later confessed that he had a drinking problem and was wanting to get a drink that morning (10:00am) and he thanked me for being obedient and telling him no.

So brother Robert, I say all that to say this,.... you are a wise and tender hearted brother and may God be praised for what He has accomplished in and thru you:)) I hope you can see that every situation is different and in each case it is an opportunity for our heart to be revealed.... who sits on the throne of our heart and who gets to decide moment by moment, step by step ? perhaps these issues are on your heart because the Lord wants to raise you and some other brethren up in your local area to be a means to His ends... to be vessels that He fills up and pours out to the praise of His name,... to advance His kingdom. It can't hurt to ask Him if that's what He wants you to do "»

**Re: - posted by CofG (), on: 2019/10/30 18:33**

Thank you Brother Fletcher.

Jesus always sought to do only what He saw the Father doing and to say only what the Father gave Him to say. The same thing should be true of us who walk in the Spirit. That is solid truth and I think it is what Todd, Elizabeth and Fletcher are essentially saying and NT Scriptures definitely back that approach to walking with Jesus in life and ministry.

With that said, Jesus was very clear that if we see a brother in need we must help them. There isn't a caveat of "but only when I tell you to". Granted, there may be occasions when God doesn't want us to help for His reasons and may stop us from obeying that general rule, but that is the exception, not the rule.

When it comes to brotherly love, the Scripture makes it clear that we are to lay down our life for every brother or sister in need. That "laying down" gets very practically explained in 1 John 3:16 et seq. (not a coincidence lost on me)

Living by the Spirit is a clear and compelling directive in Scripture. Life lived that way can look different in each person's walk. However, we can't disregard clear directives (laid out by the Spirit) that are so clear cut that the Spirit wants us to be clear.

I didn't write my OP to indict anyone on this forum. There is a general problem in the church that accepts a form of personal wealth as ordinary and even desirable that is at odds with Scripture and with a heart of love and compassion towards those in need, especially in the household of faith. This wealth principle may have originated in West but it has been adopted and embraced everywhere now. It is indefensible through Scripture.

The general principle of Scripture is that the love of God compels a person with an abundance to help the one with nothing in order to meet their daily need.

It's love that compels. If we lack this love and hold onto our abundance in the face of clear need (unless the Lord directs us not to help) then there is most definitely a coldness in the heart which is probably rooted in self love if I understand Scripture correctly. Self love is a base form of idolatry.

We all struggle with self love. The key is to establish the right standard for loving others and not let our own levels of love or our own perceptions of what is really "possible" in life establish a different standard from the one Christ established.

If we are moving deeper and deeper into loving others with our lives, then we are tracking rightly.

My concern is that there are many (as in many) in the evangelical church who aren't really tracking on this because the church has accepted standards and notions of wealth retention that deaden a heart of love being developed in His people. When this happens, we strive for wealth unabated by the demands of love and sanctify this pursuit with words like stewardship, prudence and wisdom. When self love is accepted and even embraced by the Christian culture then there is a most serious problem in God's people. I think that is where we are. I don't mean any particular individual, but rather the body of Christ in our affluent culture.

Generally, when a brother in Christ sees a brother in need He is commanded to help. I'm not sure anyone should dispute

## General Topics :: Am I greedy?

e that. If we say that this is true, but we insist that we also acknowledge and be guilt free to hold back and not help for the sake of our future needs or for our want, then we are beginning a slippery slope rationalization process that gives way too much space for the development of cold hearts and covetousness.

The sin of knowing the good we ought to do but not doing it when it is in our power or ability is just as dangerous as the sin of doing bad. Generally, people don't think that way.

I'm not trying to indict but rather trying to make sure we hold up the right Biblical standards and descriptions and commands of love so that we can all strive for the right bar. Lowering the bar to assuage guilt or to permit or even encourage potential sin is not our right nor our calling. No one in this conversation has tried to do that. But, when we fight holding the bar up to its proper heights it is the first step to the lowering of it.

Fletcher, my only desire in this is to hold up the right bar for His bride to reach for in honor to her King, in respect to His indwelling Spirit and for the good of others, especially His body in need. God delights to practice mercy and justice in all the earth and His people should likewise delight in sacrificial mercy and love because we are like Him. I'm not trying to drag anyone to sell their stuff to make God happy.

If we lose the delight in this meeting of need and obey out of reluctance or guilt, then God is not pleased. In fact, Duet. 28 makes it clear that glad hearted obedience is the only kind that is obedience.

**Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2019/10/30 20:30**

Robert I agree with what you just said.

A part of the problem, too, at least in America, is that we tend to not see tons of people in dire need, at least on a daily basis that we come across. I obviously know they are out there but if you don't live where they tend to be you don't see them unless you go there. Thank goodness I actually work for a company with a Christian CEO that encourages more volunteering for and giving to the needy than most churches I have attended.

**Re: - posted by CofG (), on: 2019/10/30 21:04**

Thanks Todd.

Sometimes we can avoid the ditch where the need is by staying off the roads. Most needs are just one keystroke away from immediate nearness. That's not directed at you.

**Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2019/10/31 7:01**

You are exactly right and it is not human nature to "go looking." Jesus said to help those you see but also said to go and visit.

**Re: - posted by CofG (), on: 2019/10/31 7:59**

I'm thankful as one in need that Jesus had to go find. Christ likeness goes and finds those in need. As you said, human nature won't but divine nature desperately wants to.

**Re: Am I greedy? - posted by InTheLight (), on: 2019/11/1 11:10**

William Law wrote that covetousness is one of the four aspects of self (envy, pride, and anger being the others). It is worthwhile to do a study through the Bible on these words. Here's some info on covetousness from Strongs and Torrey's Topical Textbook;

PLEONEXIA - a desire to have more, always in a bad sense - greediness

EPITHUMIA - desire, lust, includes sinful desires for unlawful objects besides that of gain.

1. Comes from the heart. Mark 7:22,23.

2. Engrosses the heart. Eze 33:31; 2Pe 2:14.
3. Is idolatry. Eph 5:5; Col 3:5.
4. Is the root of all evil. 1Ti 6:10.
5. Is never satisfied. Ec 5:10; Hab 2:5.
6. Is vanity. Ps 39:6; Ec 4:8.
7. Is inconsistent
  - a. In saints. Eph 5:3; Heb 13:5.
  - b. Specially in ministers. 1Ti 3:3.
8. Leads to
  - a. Injustice and oppression. Pr 28:20; Mic 2:2.
  - b. Foolish and hurtful lusts. 1Ti 6:9.
  - c. Departure from the faith. 1Ti 6:10.
  - d. Lying. 2Ki 5:22-25.
  - e. Murder. Pr 1:18,19; Eze 22:12.
  - f. Theft. Jos 7:21.
  - g. Poverty. Pr 28:22.
  - h. Misery. 1Ti 6:10.
  - i. Domestic affliction. Pr 15:27.
9. Abhorred by God. Ps 10:3.
10. Forbidden. Ex 20:17.
11. A characteristic of the wicked. Ro 1:29.
12. A characteristic of the slothful. Pr 21:26.
13. Commended by the wicked alone. Ps 10:3.
14. Hated by saints. Ex 18:21; Ac 20:33.
15. To be mortified by saints. Col 3:5.
16. Woe denounced against. Isa 5:8; Hab 2:9.
17. Punishment of. Job 20:15; Isa 57:17; Jer 22:17-19; Mic 2:2,3.
18. Excludes from heaven. 1Co 6:10; Eph 5:5.
19. Beware of. Lu 12:15.

20. Avoid those guilty of. 1Co 5:11.
21. Pray against. Ps 119:36.
22. Reward of those who hate. Pr 28:16.
23. Shall abound in the last days. 2Ti 3:2; 2Pe 2:1-3.
24. Exemplified
  - a. Laban. Ge 31:41.
  - b. Achan. Jos 7:21.
  - c. Eliâ€™s sons. 1Sa 2:12-14.
  - d. Samuelâ€™s sons. 1Sa 8:3.
  - e. Saul. 1Sa 15:9,19.
  - f. Ahab. 1Ki 21:2-4.
  - g. Gehazi. 2Ki 5:20-24.
  - h. Nobles of the Jews. Ne 5:7; Isa 1:23.
  - i. Jewish people. Isa 56:11; Jer 6:13.
  - j. Babylon. Jer 51:13.
  - k. Young man. Mt 19:22.
  - l. Judas. Mt 26:14,15; Joh 12:6.
  - m. Pharisees. Lu 16:14.
  - n. Ananias &c. Ac 5:1-10.
  - o. Felix. Ac 24:26.
  - p. Balaam. 2Pe 2:15; Jude 1:11.

**Re: Radical departure - posted by Gloryandgrace (), on: 2019/11/1 12:58**

Nothing short of a radical departure from loving our ego-centric American culture will suffice.

As I look over my own life, it is shot through with all kinds of carnality manifesting in greed.

God in his abundant kindness has seen fit to give me skill and ability to work and make a living, one that not only feeds me but abundantly provides a route to increasing worldly treasures.

I am a middle-classer, which means only those in third world countries consider me rich. But on a world-scale I am beyond rich.

The scriptures warn of associating with the covetous...in which case I am unable to associate with most everyone in an American Church. They too would have to excommunicate me for having kept my old cars...and kept my old tools and kept my old hobbies which when added together paint the clearest picture of greed.

## General Topics :: Am I greedy?

"with God all things are possible" said Jesus in the context of the impossibility of a rich man going to heaven.

There are scant few who can be said to be poor from continued and frequent costly sacrifices. The rest of us have kept back and have food pantries, not just food. We have stored furniture not just furniture. We have more than sandals we have Lexus, Mercedes, SUV's and sports cars.

Our lives consist of the abundance of what we possess. That of course is not what Jesus taught, but it is what the vast majority live like and the very few that don't...want to.

It maybe that God will remedy our and my life with the current increasing hatred for all things Christian. Wealth confiscated, freedoms taken, restrictions placed upon me and others...and then we are free from all the 'appearances of greed', then maybe will come the heart which will actually repent of greed.

The idea that possessing the kingdom of God and not possessing worldly goods is anathema to the American dream and anathema to any church requiring abundant tithing to build bigger barns and buy more furniture.

The idea that people...not me and you, but those outsiders, those lost and those abusers of themselves and others are what have 'extra' is all about is utterly lost in the American pulpit and of course among conversations with each other.

In another thread ole Kanye...critiqued for his public interviews and statements suffers absolutely no reproach among the 'true believers' for having enough money to feed utterly millions of poor. That's because we withhold from the 10's we could feed...and justify it. It's harder to condemn in him what we have become accustomed to in ourselves.

But Jesus whom I and others like me have recast in their own image has the same woes pointed towards those who withhold from their 10 the same as those who withhold from 1000's.

It's extremely difficult to wear all my Christian badges when Jesus walks in the room and shines the light on my life.