

Murder He Wrote

Colossians 3:1-7 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. 5 **Mortify therefore** your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and **covetousness, which is idolatry:** [Worship of self.] 6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: 7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.

Covetousness: *pleonexia*. Greedy desire to have more.

Covet: *epithymeō*. To have a desire for, long for, of those who seek things forbidden.

I. The Consequences

A. Other believers should not fellowship with you.

1Corinthians 5:11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or **covetous**, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.

B. Might be an indication you are not a child of God.

1Corinthians 6:10 Nor thieves, nor **covetous**, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

C. It is very commonly accepted behavior in these last days.

2 Timothy 3:1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, **covetous**, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

Romans 7:7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, **Thou shalt not covet.**

D. The most ungodly attribute about covetousness is that it is idolatry.

Colossians 3:5..... covetousness, which is idolatry:
[Worship of self.]

E. Bottom line; it is sin.

Romans 13:9 For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, **Thou shalt not covet**; and if there be any other commandment,...

Colossians 3:7 7 In the which **ye also walked** some time, when ye lived in them.

II. The Command

Colossians 3:5 **Mortify** therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and **covetousness**, which is idolatry:

A. The what.

Mortify: Kill it! To make dead, to put to death, slay.

B. The how.

Philippians 4:11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for **I have learned**, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to **be content**. 12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

III. The Conditions

A. The American Way

Total Income annually: 4.90	\$49,000
Current annual budget: 5.80	\$58,000 (11,000)
Total debt: 31.46	\$314,000

w/o spending or interest; 6 ½ years.

Average household debt:

1. All debt: 169,000
2. Credit allowance: 18,000
3. Credit actual: 8,000
4. \$7,000 in credit card debt? Results: It will take 5 years, to pay off your balance by minimum payment, if you do not charge a single item during that time.
5. Credit score is a status symbol, from poor (300 to 579) to excellent (800 to 850).

B. A Better Way

1. Learn to be satisfied and content.
2. Create a financial budget.
3. Avoid materialism. (The philosophy.) Colossians 2:8
4. Give abundantly to spiritual causes.
5. Don't shop for pleasure.
6. Honestly rejoice for those that have.
7. Trust and obey the scriptures.
8. Know your income, disposable income and discretionary income.
9. Totally avoid consumer credit. [Strive to be debt free.]
10. Do not envy the lost. (Or carnal Christian.)