

# The Cancer of Covetousness and It's Cure 1 Timothy 6

*Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Nov 28<sup>th</sup>*

There are at least two major “forces” competing for our allegiance. John 10:10 Both “The thief” and “the good shepherd” are seeking partners to further their purposes.

The Bible uses the word “koinonia” for “*Fellowship, Communion, and Partnership.*”

This means that our choices may put us in Fellowship/Communion/Partnership with either the thief or the Shepherd! 1 Jn 1:5-10

Our Peace is related to this partnership! (“Peace” {eire} means to “join”) Jn 14:27

➤ Real Peace involves partnering with God! (Ps. 119:165 Is. 26:3; Is. 32:17)

➤ Real “anxiety” is the result of partnering with the thief! (Is. 48:22)

Jesus calls us to follow (and learn of) Him! Jn 10:27; Mt 11:28; Jn 14:21; Ro. 12:1,2)

Satan is also on a mission and seeks to sidetrack us from following Christ.

Since he's the “*god of this world*”, he's infected it (1 Jn 5:19) “*the ... world lieth in wickedness*”

(poneros: diseased) and seeks to use the temporary things of this world to keep us from focusing on the eternal. (2 Cor. 4; 1 Jn 2:15,16; Phil. 3:19,20)

## The Cancer of Covetousness (Ex 20:17; Lk 12:15)

1. The Diagnosis: Ḥamad’: to delight, desire, lust for temporary (tainted) things.

A. The problem is not the delight or desire,

but the focus on the temporary “*pleasures of sin for a season*” Heb. 11:25

1) What we're really committed to becomes our focus and source of fulfilment. Mt. 6:21

2) Since we're made for Eternity, Commitment to the Temporary can never lastingly satisfy, but inevitably leads to frustration and fear. Eccl. 1:14 “*under the sun, all is vanity and vexation of spirit*” (re'ût: grasping after and feeding upon)

3) God designed us to find our delight in Him! (Eccl. 3:11; 1 Cor. 12:31; Mt. 6:33; Ps. 16:11; 37:3-5)

2. The Symptoms:

A. How do we know if we're infected?

1) We feel/act like the “Owner” instead of the Manager of God's resources. (1 Cor 4:2,7)

2) We have more than we need but neglect to share with those in genuine need. (1 Jn 3:17)

3) I fail to “*Render to God the things that are God's*” (Mt 22:21; Mal. 3:8-12; Pr. 3:5-10)

4) I grow insensitive to God's promptings in financial areas.

*Contrast Barnabas in Acts 4 with Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5!*

5) I borrow to purchase luxuries or increase my “standard of living.” (Pr. 22:7)

6) I grow bored or discontent What (or Who) I do have. (1 Tim. 6:4,5)

“If we can't learn to be content with what we currently have,

*We'll never be lastingly content if/when we get what we want!”* (Covet) Phil. 3:11-13

3. Prognosis: If not cured, it will consume us! Micah 2:10

*“Arise and depart; for this is not your rest: (Menûḥâ': consolation, comfort, peace) because it is polluted, (ṭāmē': defiled, foul) it shall destroy you, (ḥābal': bind, pervert) even with a sore destruction.”*  
(māraṣ' ḥēb'el: vehement noose! {ruin})

1 Tim. 6:5,9,10 *“perverse ... men of corrupt minds, destitute (spoiled) of the truth. ...9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation (peirasmos: put to test) and a snare, (pagis: trap stick) and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, (epithymi’a: desires) which drown men in destruction (olethros: ruin) and perdition. (apōleia: waste or loss see Mt 7:13) 10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: (kakos: worthless, injurious) which while some coveted (oregō: stretched) after, they have erred (strayed) from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” (odyn’ē: griefs)*

2 Tim 2:16,17 *“But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. And their word will eat as doth a canker...”* (gan’graina: Gangrene, From Graino: to gnaw or eat away at!)  
 Example: J. R. Tolkien’s transformation from Smeagol to “Gollum” by allowed his obsession with the ring (His Precious) to consume his soul.



## Conclusion: What’s the Cure for Covetousness?

1) **Godly Contentment** (1 Tim. 6:6) *“Godliness with contentment is great gain.”*  
*“Godliness”* (euseb’eia: Piety, holiness. From eusebēs’: devout; Devoted to **God!**)  
*With Contentment* (autar’keia: Satisfaction) *is Great* (megas: huge)  
*gain”* (porismos: a means of **furnishing!** See Jn 14:1-2; 1 Tim. 3:16,17; 2 Tim. 2:19-21)

2) **Practical Cooperation** (Partnership) 1 Tim. 6:17-19

*“Charge them (parangel’lō: with {angelic} message) that are rich (plousi’os: abundant) in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, (see Pr. 23:5) but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they that they be rich in good (kalos: valuable) works, ready to distribute, (eumetad’otos: share, disperse) willing to communicate; (koinōnikos: partner with God) Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.” (Eternal Treasures!)*

Are you willing to partner with God through Faith Promise to make an eternal difference in the lives of others? *“laying up ... a good foundation for the time to come”*

1 Tim 6:20-21 *“Keep (phylasso: guard) that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee.”* (See Phil. 2:13)

## Peace = Partnership (with God)

God’s committed to us *“all things that pertain to life and godliness”* (2 Peter 1:3; 2 Cor. 4:7)  
 What are we going to do with them?

*“Let me hold lightly to things of this earth; Transient treasures, what are they worth?  
 Moths can corrupt them, rust can decay, All their bright beauty will fade in a day.  
 Show me Thy riches, Glory and Grace. Boundless as time, endless as space.  
 Let me hold lightly to things that are mine- Lord thou hast promised me, all that is thine.”*  
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