

**What is  
Idolatry?**

# BUILDING BLOCKS

**Covetousness,  
Which is  
Idolatry**

**Part 5**

The apostle Paul unmistakably connects the deadly dots of idolatry for us on two different occasions.

- 🔊 In [Ephesians 5:5](#), he confidently asserts, “For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is \_\_\_\_\_ (that is, an \_\_\_\_\_), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.”
- 🔊 To the saints in Colossae, “Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and \_\_\_\_\_, which is \_\_\_\_\_. On account of these the wrath of God is coming” ([Col 3:5-6](#)).

“**Covetousness**” sounds really serious, but what is it?

Covetousness is wanting some \_\_\_\_\_ more than I want \_\_\_\_\_.

Do you remember the first of the 10 Commandments?

“You shall have no other \_\_\_\_\_ before me.”  
([Exo 20:3](#))

But notice also the last of those 10 Commandments:

“You shall not \_\_\_\_\_ your neighbor’s house ... your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.” ([Exo 20:17](#))

Why did God warn us about these deadly traps so long ago? Because when I want some thing more than I want God, sometimes I’ll go to great (and hurtful) lengths to get it ([Exo 20:13-16](#)).

This is exactly why Jesus told us the straightforward truth in [Matthew 6:24](#): “No one can serve two masters ... you cannot serve \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.”

## For Class & Family Discussion:

- In your own words, what does it mean to “covet” something that belongs to someone else?
- Why is “covetousness” often a gateway to all sorts of other sins?
- This is a deadly trap that God warns us about all through the Bible. Let’s see if we can’t summarize what he is communicating in:
  - [Proverbs 11:4](#) -
  - [Ecclesiastes 5:10](#) -
  - [1 Timothy 6:9-10](#) -
  - [1 Corinthians 5:11](#) -
- What might it look like in the 21st century when someone tries to “serve two masters”?
- Why *can’t* I serve God and money?
- How do [Ephesians 5:1-2](#) and [Colossians 3:1-4](#) serve as the antidotes to the poison of [Ephesians 5:5](#) and [Colossians 3:5-6](#)?