

A Study About Elders

(Part 15)

I. Introduction:

A. We have discussed how that elders cannot be greedy of filthy lucre (**I Timothy 3:3** and **Titus 1:7**).

1. The subject matters of covetousness and being greedy of filthy lucre are very closely related (**Proverbs 21:25-26**).

2. The principles can be taught together (**Luke 16:10-15**).

B. However, the Lord separated the two in the qualifications of elders, so we have to be diligent in handling these things aright (**II Timothy 2:14-18**).

1. On the one hand, you have a person who is greedy for money which makes them evil and naturally predatory (**Proverbs 1:10-19**).

2. On the other hand, you have a person looking at things that belong to others [when considering coveting] (**Exodus 20:17**).

II. Body: Not Covetous (**I Timothy 3:3**).

A. The word translated “covetous” in **I Timothy 3:3** means: “without covetousness, not greedy of filthy lucre. Not loving money, not avaricious” (Strong’s # 866).

1. The only other time this exact Greek word is used in the New Testament is in **Hebrews 13:5**.

2. As we discuss a person that covets (**Romans 13:9-10**), as it is stated throughout the Scriptures, we should consider how such involves looking at what others possess and desiring it (**Deuteronomy 5:21**).

B. Why does this matter when discussing elders besides the sinful side of it? Think about a person in a position of authority to take something from someone because they covet it (**Micah 2:1-2**).

1. They want what you have and might seek to abuse their authority to somehow gain it (**I Kings 21:1-29**).

2. False religious leaders have long been guilty of such things (**Mark 12:38-40** and **Luke 20:45-47**).

3. They might press for you give more on the first day of the week not for the right reasons (**II Corinthians 9:6-7**), but to get your money (**Matthew 21:12-13**, **John 10:7-10**, and **John 12:1-6**).

4. Covetousness is something people use flattering words to conceal, especially when they are in a teaching role (**I Thessalonians 2:1-5**).

5. What if an elder were to covet, take, and sin in the process. Couldn't that have an effect on more than just him too (**Joshua 7:1-26**)?

6. Shouldn't a shepherd of the flock have a good heart and care more about helping others than helping himself (**Acts 20:35**)?

C. Covetousness is a heart problem (**Jeremiah 22:17**, **Ezekiel 33:30-33**, and **Mark 7:20-23**).

1. How can someone with a heart problem be a servant of God at all (**Psalms 24:1-5, Psalms 73:1, and Matthew 5:8**)?

2. Where do heart problems lead (**II Chronicles 12:13-14, Jeremiah 16:12, and Hebrews 3:12**).

D. For the sake of careful thought, coveting is not entirely or always wrong in all things (**I Corinthians 12:28-31 and I Corinthians 14:5; 14:39**).

1. Following someone's proper lead could show you a life to covet after spiritually (**Philippians 3:17**).

2. A zealous affection can be in a good thing (**Galatians 4:18**).

III. Conclusion: What's it say of a person who covets things (**Psalms 10:1-12**)?