

Lesson Aim	To understand what it is to covet; it has to do with bad desires.
Steps to Learning	Read the Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 44 and Mark 7:1-23 . Discuss the sermon and the particulars of the lesson below. It may be best to work through the material over several days or sessions.
Discuss	<p>What is the point of the Mark 7:1-23 passage?</p> <p>In this passage, Jesus is correcting the Pharisees and the Scribes and their wrong idea of following the tradition of the elders. This tradition, which was not according to the Word of God, emphasized outward washing as a way in which to demonstrate righteousness. Jesus teaches that our hearts, which are evil, need to be cleansed from unrighteousness.</p> <p>Where is the tenth commandment found in the Old Testament?</p> <p>It is found explicitly in Exodus 20:17 and Deuteronomy 5:21: We are not to covet anything of our neighbors, or anything that does not rightly belong to us. The word "covet" includes wrong desires. Desires are good when they are appropriate to our callings.</p> <p>What is the Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 44, teaching us?</p> <p>It is teaching us, as it explicates the tenth commandment, that we are not to allow the least inclination of our thoughts to be against any commandment of God. Rather, we are to hate all sin and take pleasure in all righteousness. We can desire things that are righteous and within our reach to acquire and to be content with what God has provided us in this life. Also, the tenth commandment teaches us that we are to pursue righteousness, which will not be perfected until we enter heaven. In the meantime, the Law of God reminds us that we are sinful and need to rely on the righteousness of Christ as our comfort and hope in this life.</p> <p>What do the Scriptures teach us in terms of where our evil desires come from?</p> <p>They come from our sinful nature, which was determined from the fall of Adam and Eve. We've been imputed with Adam's sin. His sin and Eve's sin began when their desires became twisted and excessive. They both desired the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, which they were not to partake of. But our hope in the midst of our struggle against sin, is found in the righteousness of Christ, which has been imputed to us through faith in Jesus Christ!</p>
Bible Reading	Acts 22-28 (Reading through the New Testament)