

# The Romance of Coveting

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When Paul wrote the church not to company with fornicators, he did not mean those of the world, but rather if any man be a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, and so forth. Have you ever considered the serious nature of coveting? The tenth commandment adds, "thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife" so I wonder about reading romantic novels or watching romantic movies... even "Christian" romantic novels. What could possibly be wrong with these sweet "love" stories? These stories stir up our fantasies about the ideal desirable partner. We want the same passions, sensations, and flesh-satisfying feelings, that the main characters experience. The fantasy focuses on self and we long to feel what the imaginary hero feels. Of course the sorry so-and-so that we are married to falls far short of that dream.

The Scriptures demand that we be content with the flawed partners that we have. The wife must submit (Eph. 5:22) and the husband must love his wife as his own body (Eph. 5:33). Such a wife is the ideal of the church and such a husband is the ideal of Christ. The exalted place of marriage in God's plan is designed to make us content forming a home and family, bearing fruit to glorify God. Romantic stories undo that state of contentment, with the lie that true fulfillment would be the passion of a single kiss or the thrill of another lingering look. What a crock! Life and living is a lot more than just being looked at and kissed. These unrealistic and unbiblical expectations not only breed coveting but also eventually rebellion. The phantom prince lives on blurring the vision and tempting the passions and binding the hearts to a false hope. The truth is that God calls on wives to cherish their flawed husbands long after the gallant prince stumbles, puts on a few pounds and his hair begins to fall out. He calls on husbands to cherish their flawed wives. To be truly loved and trusted by a truly faithful spouse is a wonder and treasure. This is true romance.

"Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life." The Enemy has been very successful in our day destroying the majority of new marriages and preventing the birth and discipling of countless children that might have become the pillars of our future. We are incompetent to raise large families because we feed on fantasies and know so little of God's ideals for righteous men and women. There is hope for our children if they will dream the right dreams, God's dreams as described in the Scriptures. tp