

**Scripture Reading:** Titus 1:15 – 3:8

**Extra Reading:** Apostle's Creed & Canons of Dort, III/IV, art. 5 (pg. 107)

**Singing:** 222:1, 3, 4, 5 – 384:1-5 – 385:1-3 – 435:1, 2 8, 9

Opening Observations:

- There are three kinds of desires:
  - A. Natural desires
  - B. Sinful desires
  - C. Godly desires
- Presence of godly desires is the evidence of *regeneration*

<b>THE TENTH COMMANDMENT: GOD'S CALL TO BE HOLY AS GOD IS HOLY</b>
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A. This 10<sup>th</sup> is a *reflective and deepening command*

1. Surface level has been covered in previous commandments
2. Yet in 10<sup>th</sup> God goes step further as He deals with *desires* of heart
  - a. no sinful desire is *ever to rise in our heart*
  - b. all good desires *ought to rise in our heart*
  - c. God commands this in perfect measure: Matt. 5:48; 1 Peter 1:15
3. Important to distinguish between the *temptation to and coveting of*
  - a. consider Gen. 3:16; James 1:14-15; Matt. 4:10
4. No human law book goes ever this deep

B. How does that look practically in the day to day circumstances?

C. Do you find this high standard of godliness your joy and aim of heart?

1. The 'unregenerate mind' will not (Rom. 8:7)
2. The 'regenerate mind' delights in the law of the Lord (Rom. 7:22)

- D. Why hold up such a standard even the saved can't keep?
1. Because Jesus did do this in all His teaching
    - a. None knew better what dwelled in human hearts
    - b. He didn't preach assume any hearer had any power in himself
    - c. Yet He demands obedience to His call and direction.
  2. Because Jesus preached like this because of John 6:63 *It is the Spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.*
  3. Because it is the way to make Christ more precious and needed!
    - a. Q. 114 is a pastoral answer to a beaten down hearer
    - b. when the surgical knife of God's law sinks into depths of your evil heart the more you are driven away from self to Christ!
  4. Because it is the Spirit's way of cultivating godliness (Titus 2:14-15)

**CLOSING CAUTION:** *Never mix the foundation with building stones!*

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#### **Food for Further Thought**

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Justification never results *from* good works  
yet justification always results *in* good works.

Though God has married justification and sanctification, yet they  
always remain as distinct as a husband and wife in marriage.

Nothing can set aside the evidence of a holy life. It is better than a  
revelation from heaven. (W. Plumer)

Heaven must be in you before you can be in heaven. (Swinnock)

Christ comes with a blessing in each hand: forgiveness in the one and  
holiness in the other. He gives the one without giving the other.