

WRITTEN IN
STONE

**The Eighth Commandment:
Stealing**

EXODUS 20:15

G
O
D

#1 - Lordship

#2 - Idolatry

#3 - Representation

#4 - Sabbath

#5 - Honor #6 - Murder #7 - Adultery

MAN

#8 - Stealing #9 - Lying #10 - Coveting

DIVIDING THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

1. What is stealing?

2. Why is stealing forbidden??

3. How do we break the Eighth Commandment?

THREE QUESTIONS

- The word for steal (Hebrew *ganav*) means “to take something away secretly or unlawfully” or “to take away by stealth.”
- *John Calvin* - “...occurs when a man possesses what isn't his, and when we don't attempt to protect what God has put in a person's hands.”
- *Martin Luther* - when we “...take advantage of our neighbor in any sort of dealing that results in loss to him.”

WHAT IS STEALING?

- **Stealing is a sin against the sovereign and gracious provision of our God to man and a sin against the joyful responsibility of man to be a steward over what God graciously provides.**

WHAT IS STEALING?

- Stealing is taking something that has been sovereignly given by God to another.
- Scriptures to consider: Psalm 24:1; 89:11; John 1:3
- Stealing is robbing God.

WHY IS STEALING FORBIDDEN?

“Every violation of the Ten Commandments involves some form of theft. Bowing down to idols steals God’s worship. Desecrating the Sabbath steals his holy day. Murder steals life; adultery steals purity; lying steals the truth. But the real theft is that every sin we commit dishonors God, and thus steals the glory that our lives ought to give him.”

(Ten Commandments)



PHIL RYKEN

- “What’s yours is mine; I’ll take it.” - the thief
- “What’s mine is mine; I’ll keep it.” - the selfish
- “What’s mine is God’s; I’ll share it.” - the godly

(Jerry Bridges, *The Discipline of Grace*)

THREE ATTITUDES TOWARD POSSESSIONS

“If we really believe in God's providence, if we really believe that our neighbor is made in the image of God, if we really care about the community more than we care about ourselves, then we will never distrust God's providence so as to take from someone else something that does not belong to us...



LIGON DUNCAN

“...We will never steal from our neighbor to provide for our own. We will never do injury to our neighbor's welfare, knowing that he's an image-bearer, knowing that the sin is a sin against the community, knowing that God provides for us.”

(Sermon on the 8th Commandment)



LIGON DUNCAN

- Individual/personal (Lamentations 3:35-36)

**HOW DO WE BREAK THE 8TH
COMMANDMENT?**

- Individual/personal (Lamentations 3:35-36)
- Economical (Proverbs 11:1; 16:11)

**HOW DO WE BREAK THE 8TH
COMMANDMENT?**

- Individual/personal (Lamentations 3:35-36)
- Economical (Proverbs 11:1; 16:11)
- Vocational (Colossians 3:23)

**HOW DO WE BREAK THE 8TH
COMMANDMENT?**

- Individual/personal (Lamentations 3:35-36)
- Economical (Proverbs 11:1; 16:11)
- Vocational (Colossians 3:23)
- Societal/communal (Exodus 22; Leviticus 25; Deuteronomy 15; 23; Micah 2-3)

**HOW DO WE BREAK THE 8TH
COMMANDMENT?**

- Individual/personal (Lamentations 3:35-36)
- Economical (Proverbs 11:1; 16:11)
- Vocational (Colossians 3:23)
- Societal/communal (Exodus 22; Leviticus 25; Deuteronomy 15; 23; Micah 2-3)
- Ecclesiastical (Malachi 3:8-9; Acts 25)

**HOW DO WE BREAK THE 8TH
COMMANDMENT?**

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

II CORINTHIANS 5:21

“A magistrate regards someone as a criminal and punishes him if he catches him among thieves, even though the man has never committed anything evil or worthy of death. Christ was not only found among sinners; but of his own free will and by the will of the Father he wanted to be an ...



MARTIN LUTHER

“...associate of sinners having assumed the flesh and blood of those who were sinners and thieves and who were immersed in all sorts of sin. Therefore when the Law found him among thieves, it condemned and executed him as a thief.”

(The Law of Perfect Freedom)



MARTIN LUTHER

“All it takes for us to be guilty of theft is one misspent hour at work; one item we ‘forgot’ to return from the office; one personal long-distance phone call we made at the company’s expense; one overpriced item in our store. We see our sinless Lord, crucified for thieves not unlike the one hanging next to Him...



MICHAEL HORTON

“...Here was one person who never took what did not belong to Him, and who fulfilled all His obligations and paid debts He did not owe, and yet He hangs here next to a common thief, bearing His shame and guilt before God as though He had committed the crime. The thief crucified next to our Lord may have experienced the wrath of Rome that dark Friday afternoon,...



MICHAEL HORTON

“...but because of the crucifixion of a Man just feet from him, he would not have to endure the wrath of heaven. All thieves who trust in Christ can expect to hear those same words on their death-bed from the spotless Lamb:

‘Today you shall be with me in Paradise.’”

(The Law of Perfect Freedom)



MICHAEL HORTON