



Steal No More

8th Commandment

EXODUS 20:15

1. Stealing From Others



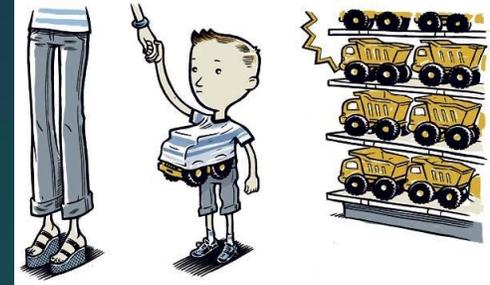
- ▶ The first thing most people think of when we mention the 8th commandment—it is referring to stealing things from other people (Eph. 4:28)
- ▶ Beside actual stealing as we think of, such as **theft** and **robbery** (Lev. 6:1-7), there are several other kinds of “stealing” that were mentioned:
 - ▶ (Deut. 25:13-16) **Cheating** is a form of stealing
 - ▶ (Lev. 19:13) Not paying your workers **a fair wage** or paying them late is also a form of stealing

Stealing From Others (cont.)

- ▶ (Exo. 21:16) The most serious form of theft in the Law is **human trafficking** (sadly we still have)
- ▶ In a **broader** sense, we can steal from each other in many other ways:
- ▶ For example, we can steal from our **family** members the love and attention they deserve
- ▶ Or we can steal other people's **time** by being late or not showing up, etc.



But Why Do We Steal?



- ▶ note: We like to think there is a “grey” area for theft. (i.e. traveling) That is not “that bad.”
- ▶ There are many reasons for stealing things:
- ▶ **Poverty**—with dire needs
- ▶ **Peer pressure**—staying with the wrong crowd
- ▶ To **feel** good—for the thrill or pride (addiction)
- ▶ Ultimately it is a combination of a **false worldview** (they won’t miss it) plus **self-centered** thinking that is the basis of most stealing (a lack of empathy)

2. Stealing From God



- ▶ Excuses and damage of stealing aside, there is a far deeper implication of this commandment—stealing from the **blessings of God**
- ▶ I am not talking about stealing from ministry...which is bad of course, rather in wasting God's gifts to us
- ▶ Your **time** is a blessing from God (Eph. 5:16; Col. 4:5)
- ▶ Your **health** is a blessing from God (1 Cor. 6:19-20)
- ▶ Your **money** is a blessing from God (Prov. 3:9-10)

3. Stealing From Ourselves

- ▶ Many people are stealing their God-given **potential** and from their **future** because of their fear of failure or mistake (2 Tim. 1:7; Isa. 41:10)
- ▶ Once we embrace God's love and know that we can never lose His love (Rom. 8:31-39) we are in a **secure place** emotionally to do something new
- ▶ Ask yourself: what could be the worse/best outcome? And what regret will I have if I do (not do) this? Is this what God put me on earth to do?



Conclusion—Solutions of Stealing

▶ This commandment covers a broad range of stealing that we can do to **others** and **ourselves**, and as we waste our blessings from God.

1. (Eph. 4:28) “honest work with his own hand”
2. (Pro. 9:10) A proper **understanding** of God and His blessings will lead us to make wise choices
3. (Phil. 2:3-4) Consider others with **empathy**
4. (Jer. 1:18-19) Dare to do the difficult things because God is with us