

“Thou Shalt Not Steal”

Ex. 20:15

Open:

- Stealing = Taking something that is not yours.
 - If its not yours, it does not belong to you so do not take it.
 - There is not such thing as stealing something small. (\$0.01 or \$1,000 – Both are just as wrong)
 - Stealing and thievery are not sicknesses someone is born with, they are sins one chooses to commit.
- This commandment is vital in the preservation of personal ownership.
 - Land
 - Possessions
 - Unalienable rights (God given freedoms)
- We are not to assume that everyone knows this fact.
 - We must teach it in home and at church.
 - It is in our nature, as humans, to take things that do not belong to us.
 - We must not only teach that stealing and thievery is wrong; but we must also warn of the consequences that will follow if this commandment is broken.

I. The command “*Thou shalt not steal*” teaches, that God recognizes personal property.

- The children of Israel were slaves for nearly 500 years and because of this fact, God needed to teach them the importance of ownership. **Ex. 20:2** “*I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.*”
- We were children of the devil by birth, born into the bondage and slavery of sin, so it is important that we learn the importance of ownership. **Gal. 5:1** “*Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.*”

A. Ownership = The legal right of possession

- Land
 - Automobile
 - Home
 - Church
- i. Government has not right to take that which is not rightfully theirs. It is their job to protect those certain unalienable rights (person, property, freedom). When we decided to turn our backs on the 10 Commandments, we made possible the corruption of pure government.
 - ii. Other individuals have no right to take that which is not rightfully theirs. When we stopped teaching the 10 Commandments in our homes, churches, and our schools we began to rear generations of individuals with no respect for the property of others nor for their own things.

- B. Stewardship = The recognition that God created and owns everything but has given us the personal responsibility manage that which God has given us.
 - i. Creation = We are not responsible for controlling nature or protecting the earth for future generations; we have been simply tasked with properly using what God has given to us, and teaching others to do the same.
 - ii. Possessions = We are not responsible to make sure that everyone else has what we have or to ensure that all people possess an equal amount of things. We are to simply be good stewards of what God has allowed us to have.
- C. To teach ownership and stewardship is to teach personal responsibility.
 - i. Lazy people like socialism and reject the teachings of God’s commandments because they want to be given everything instead of developing the character to earn what they want and to take care of what God has given them.
 - ii. It is vitally important that we not only understand and teach, but to live our lives in such a way that requires those around us to also develop the character necessary to preserve God’s law.
 - a. We are not to fund laziness.
 - b. We are not to feed and fuel those who promote and reject the teachings of God’s law.
 - c. Teach your kids how to work for what they want!

II. The command “*Thou shalt not steal*”, prevents slavery.

- A. Those who tear down the wall of personal ownership, are seeking to enslave those behind that wall.
- B. Dictatorship, socialism, and communism thrive; because they are based on teaching people, that individuals and the money they make belong to the government.
 - i. *“We [the government] know what is best, you don’t need God, education, or possessions. If you will trust us, we will all thrive together in equality, justice, and peace.”*
 - ii. *“People and money are distributed based on the needs of the nation.”*
- C. Only when a people recognize the importance of personal ownership do they begin to respect the life, property, and freedoms of the individuals around them.
 - i. This commandment brings true equality by giving all the freedom to work as hard as they can to earn what they want in life.
 - ii. Those who seek to destroy the commandment “*Thou shalt not steal*” are seeking to “divide and conquer” by appealing to the natural tendency of mankind to be lazy.

III. The command “*Thou shalt not steal*”, protects the sanctity of human life.

- “*Your rights; stop at the tip of my nose!*”
 - It may be your body, and you may have the freedom to do with it what you want; but when you begin to steal life, you have crossed a line that should be punished.
- A. Abortion is stealing the innocent life of the unborn.
 - B. Murder is sealing the life of another, unjustly.
 - C. Adultery is stealing the person of another.
 - D. Gossip, slander, and libel steal the character of another.
 - E. When I do not live my life the way God instructs me to, that is me stealing what rightfully belongs to God.
 - i. **Rom. 12:1** “*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*”
 - ii. **I Cor. 6:19-20** “*What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? [20] For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.*”

Close:

- Don’t live your life convinced your thievery is not as bad as someone else’s. If you’re not living your life the way God has instructed you to, you are a thief who has stolen from God what is rightfully his.
- Learn to develop the character necessary to have a life that is pleasing to God. Don’t live your life mooching off the spirituality of others in your life.
- Teach the next generation the importance of working for what you have and what you want.

The 10 Commandments

1. Thou Shalt have no other gods before me.
2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath.
5. Honour thy father and thy mother.
6. Thou shalt not kill.
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
8. Thou shalt not steal.
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness.
10. Thou shalt not covet.