

Series: Honoring God in the 10 Commandments

Title: A Character Worth Living

Title: (Ex 20:15) *Thou shalt not steal.* 8th commandment:

We live in a world of Thieves & Thieving.

To protect your data, your finances, your identity, to protect you.

But we've become a custom to thievery.

Stores that have tags on every item, security monitors, Security Guards on the front doors.

Cameras overhead.

Cameras in the aisle that light up.

We have doorbell cameras

Foolish to believe that human beings are basically good.

We are all so weary of being defrauded & stolen from we don't even answer the phone for an Unknown number.

Whenever we take something that does not belong to us or when we withhold something that is due someone else we are breaking this commandment, it is stealing, you are a thief.

God Laws for living teach we should respect what other people possess.

(Ex 20:15) *Thou shalt not steal.*

There are no provisos, or addendum's, or loopholes. Nowhere does it say it's OK if they're rich, or have 2. There are no caveats, "I have a good reason" clause.

The Bible teaches that there is private property rights.

This is where we get our property rights and ownership rights for the constitution of the United States.

The New Testament does not negate personal property and ownership rights.

Comm 5-10 deal with loving your neighbor as yourself. You love your neighbor as yourself by not stealing from them.

What would our world and our economy look like if everybody just obey the eighth amendment?

But we do steal from each other and now with technology the ability to steal from each other is even greater.

List ways people steal.

Stealing is not just taking what is not yours, it's keeping what is not rightfully yours.

When Christians steal, defraud, cheat, we are such hypocrites.

We come on Sundays and sing our songs and smile and shake hands, and mimic Jesus, but Monday -Saturday we mimic Judas.

There is Stealing: To just take w/o the owners consent.

There is Defrauding: To take by Subtlty, Dupe, Trick, Cheat. (Deut 25:13-16) "*divers weights*"

(Lev 19:13a) *Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbor*

(1 Thes 4:6) *That no man go beyond and defraud his brother*

There are NO Possessions in life worth having if they cannot be gained honestly.

God gave us 10 comm in Deut 5, then in Deut 6, fathers were to teach their children these commandments.

An old rabbinical proverb states: Anyone who does not teach his child a trade, teaches his child to steal.

We have lost a sense of honesty in our country because our children are not learning honesty & integrity at Home.

We have compromised our own personal character in front of them at worst or just neglected to teach it at best.

The NT application of the 8 Comm

(Eph 4:28) *Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.*

#1. Integrity: “let him that steel steel no more”

There is never a time when Stealing is RIGHT.

When we Steal, we are saying that God is not taking care of me as he should.

It's a sign of Ingratitude.

It's a sign of Disdain for God's Goodness and Provision.

Shoplifting is stealing

Turning in receipts for \$80 when you receive the \$20 cash rebate is stealing from your employer.

Half hearted work is stealing from your employer.

(Col 3:22-24)

As an employer: if you do not pay a man what he's worth, you are stealing from that man. (Col 4:1)

This also goes for domestic work. Landscapers/housekeeper
Are you paying them what you would accept if you were doing that work?

Being slow to pay someone when it is in your power to.
(Lev 19:13) - (James 5:4)

**Insurance Manipulation,
Income/Property Tax Evasion,
Seeking to take advantage of other people.**
Seeking out the gullible or the uninformed.
This is not shrewd business management, this is stealing.

Jesus called the Lawyers, Scribes, Pharisees Thieves
They took advantage of widows who had no husband to protect them. (Matt 23:14)

Withholding Love & Devotion is breaking this commandment.

Defrauding: if you withhold sexual love from your wife or husband you are defrauding them. (1 Cor 7:1-5)

When we withhold our Christ like love from our neighbor we are defrauding them also. (Rom 13:8)

Some children defraud their parents by taking advantage of their love for their own selfish gain, and some children have defrauded their parents by withholding love and honor.

You are a thief.

The very worst thievery, is stealing from God.

Have you given God your life?

You are not your own, but you were bought with a price.
(1 Cor 6:19-20)

You were his by right of Creation,
You are his by right of Redemption.

When we live our life for self, and self alone;
It's as if Jesus never lived, died, Rose again to save our souls.
We are thieves.

We Rob God when We neglect to pay tithes?

(Malachi 3:8)

The Tithe is a symbol of our recognition that everything belongs to God.

When we refuse to pay our tithes, we are robbing from God.

The TITHE is a Tenth of all our Increase.

The tenth part of everything we are increased by annually.
(Lev 27:30)

Personal Tithes: increase from labor, art, trade & navigation;
Predeed Tithes: Increase from the earth, as hay, wood & fruit;
Mixed Tithes: Increase from Livestock. (1 Sam 8:15,17)

We have a misconception that the 10% of our gross belongs to God, when in actuality all of it belongs to God.

"The one who owns the sheep, owns the wool also."

Recap the ways we rob, or steal from others.

Take what is not ours.
Not return what we borrowed.

Defraud by taking through subtlety & cheating.
Withholding Love & Honor to others.
Not giving Tithes

When we do these things we are actually robbing ourselves. (Jer 5:25)

It pays to serve Jesus, It pays dividends every day.
(Ps 37:25)

God pays me dividends, not just on Fridays.

By seeking to Get & Get & Get & Get

I'm the one that ends up losing.

But when I give myself to the Lord & to his service: I Gain.

We are stealing from God...

Withold our life & service to Him.

Withold our love & Obedience.

Withold our tithes. God Owns Everything!

Gambling is thieving.

It's not your money you are gambling with.

It's called gaming to try to mask it & make it sound harmless.

People ask me: *"why is gambling morally wrong?"*

Because for you to win, somebody else has to lose.

True legitimate business is win win, you pay me, and I give you goods and services that are equal to the amount of money you gave me. **We both win.**

Gambling is profit & pleasure at someone else's expense & loss. (Hab 2:6)

#2. Industry:

(Eph 4:28) **but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good,**

We need to teach our children that work is good.

The Bible is clear on the necessity of work: (2 Thess 3:10)

The same scriptures that tell us where the rest on the seventh day also tells us that we are the labor six of those seven days. (Exodus 20:9-10)

Any man that will not work & take care of his family cannot even call himself a Christian. (1 Tim 5:8)

Solomon stated that work and labor are a blessing.

(Ecc 5:18-19)

Enjoying the fruit of your labor is a gift from God (Lam 3:27)

Foolish to think children should not work.

I have use the skills my daddy taught me to put food on the table of my family.

I did not have self-esteem issues because I had people telling me what a good job I did when I did a good job.

I spent my life working.

My boys have learned the skills of the ministry.

That's the family business today.

My three oldest sons have enter the workforce with some very basic skills.

Some of you were going to be retiring soon.

Why not retire so you can serve God full-time.

Integrity, Industry...

#3: Generosity:

(Eph 4:28) **that he may have to give to him that needeth.**

“That” The Result of Integrity & Industry would be...

Generosity: **“he may have to give to him that needeth”**

There is so much emphasis today on how God loves you.

How God wants to meet your needs.

How God wants to take care of you.

BUT somehow we have lost sight of the fact that ...

God loves our neighbor and

God wants to be a blessing to our neighbor too.

God wants to be a blessing to them through us.

God wants us to serve them.

God wants meet their needs through us.

Just as God has used others to be a blessing to us.

God wants to use us to be a blessing to others. (Luke 6:38)

So it's not just about people not stealing from you.

It's about people also not stealing from your neighbor.

Its about Stealing from our neighbor by withholding what

God has impressed upon you to give.

We have rights,

We're all intimately aware of them and on guard, but we don't treat our responsibilities with the same weight of importance.

When all we do is focus on our rights rather than our responsibilities we undermine the society as a whole.

Thus: The opposite of stealing is giving.

We need to teach our children Generosity and Charity.
(Acts 20:33-35)

Paul said that God used to work in his life to meet his needs and the needs of those that were with him.

Laboring that we might be able to have our needs met and also be able to meet the needs of others. (Eph 4:28)

Do good. Give love.

Teach your children to give love that is unconditional.

Model in front of them unconditional love.

Do not be stingy with your love.

Benevolence vs. Stingy.

There is so much more to Benevolence than just Money.

For God's work to be done through men, He needs us to demonstrate Goodness with our Money, Time, Efforts, Gifts, & Talents, & in our actions with and responses to the mistakes of others.

(Matt 6:19-21; 24-33)

Jesus is saying that we should not focus on the acquisition of temporary things that will be of no value to us when we die.

Treasure - The great quantity of any thing that is collected for future use.

(Gal 6:10)

Give your children an allowance for doing chores and use it to teach them to be generous, to be faithful to give tithes and offerings, to do good with it as well as just spend it for fun and save it for future fun.

Teach children how to give to missions, and missions project, Model it in front of them, lead them to do the same.

If I had 1000 lifetimes, I'd give everyone of them for Jesus.

If I steal from God I'll steal from myself.

Because my selfishness cost me the blessings of God.

(Give the gospel)

God's Greatest display of love was Calvary.

All the toys and trinkets of this world cannot be compared to salvation in Jesus Christ.

As a kid we used to say finders keepers, losers weepers. Jesus says just the opposite.

(Mark 8:35-37)

Keepers are losers, and givers are finders.

(John 10:10)

We are stealing from ourselves when we steal from God.

What you do for others, God will do for you.

(Eph 6:8)

Even the slightest encouragement you offer is not only heard in heaven, but it is also rewarded on earth.

Defrauding, withholding love, withholding honor and respect, these are ways we steal from others. We steal from God by living a selfish life, not giving, not serving,

(Eph 4:28)

Let us all Learn Integrity, Industry, Generosity.