

**Series "Ten Commandments"**  
**"Shall Not Steal"**  
**Exodus 20:15**  
**Part-9**

**Exodus 20:15 – "You shall not steal."**

**This Commandment is important because it is the foundation of our entire economic system.**

**Commandment #8 (Property): Exodus 20:15 – "You shall not steal."**

**1. What The Commandment Teaches**

**2. Different Forms Of Stealing**

**3. Why Stealing Is Wrong**

**1. What The Commandment Teaches:**

Exodus 20:15 – "You shall not steal."

"You shall not steal." – In the original Hebrew, it is only two words: "Not Steal." To take by stealth (secret), robbery, extortion, the taking of another's possessions by force or threat of force or deceit, embezzlement, bribery that which rightly belongs to another (Active form), or by not giving what is due another. (Passive) Literally, "Stealing" – "is the illegitimate acquisition of property."

What is property? Communist/Socialist say it is that which belongs to the State; the Capitalist says it is that which belongs to the individual; God says it is neither. All things belong to God!

Genesis 1:1; Exodus 19:5; 1 Corinthians 10:26

All belongs to God, but while man is on earth, God has given the right to possession; to take care of what God has entrusted to our care. When one steals from a person, they steal from God!

Deuteronomy 24 – You can't take a person's millstone; need it to work, to live; nor their cloak; needs it to keep warm. You kill a person by taking his means to make money and exist.

This Commandment does not mandate this self-centered materialism pursued by many today, 1 Timothy 6:8.

1. Every 50 years, the land reverted back to the original owners. People lost land through hardships.
2. The owners of fields were to leave corners and edges of the fields so that the poor could glean.
3. When the harvest took place, what the harvest workers dropped was not to be picked up, but was for the poor to pick up.

The Bible Taught Restitution: That the offender paid back to the victim, and made restitution for the wrong.

1. When a person stole a sheep or ox – he was required to pay restitution of 4 sheep or 5 oxen, Exodus 22: 1-4.
2. Fraud – required full restitution plus 1/5 of full value of what was taken, Numbers 5: 7.
3. Kidnapping a person (Abduction) – The stealing of another human being's liberty; restitution was to be made with the kidnapper's life, Exodus 21: 16; Deuteronomy 24: 7.

Martin Luther said, "If all thieves – who nevertheless do not wish to be considered such – were to be hanged to the gallows, the world would soon be desolate, and would be without both executioners and gallows."

Why Do People steal? Fallen Nature, Corrupt.

The Love Of Money: 1 Timothy 6: 10.

There is an excitement in the forbidden: Proverbs 9: 17.

Covetousness: The inordinate desire to get that which belongs to somebody else, Ephesians 5: 5

Laziness: 1 Timothy 5: 8.

Poor Examples: It starts in the home; our children need to know that stealing from the job, not paying for an order of fries, or Coke is wrong.

**2. Different Forms Of Stealing:** There are two basic forms: Active & Passive.

Active: These are what we call sins of commission. I purposely set out to take that which is not mine.

Luke 10: 25-29

Jesus refers him back to the Commandments, 1-4 Deals with reverence for God – “YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND;” – Then Commandments 5-10 deals with respect for man. – “AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.” – These sum up all the Commandments.

“And who is my neighbor?” – Jesus gives a parable to answer who is our neighbor.

Luke 10:30-37

Luke 10:30

Active: The philosophy of the thieves is: “What belongs to my neighbor, I want! It belongs to me and I will take it.”

Theft Of Customs Tax: We are to declare items that we purchase in other countries but people don't.

Theft Through Debt: We take out loans or make purchases on things that we don't intend to pay for or return.

Theft Of Borrowing: do not intend to return them.

The Theft Of Public Assistance.

Theft By False Advertising.

Theft Of Income Tax: not reporting income, claiming dependents.

Passive: We can steal by not giving what is due to people.

Employers: not giving what is due to employees, James 5:4.

Genesis 25:29-34 – The Bible never said that Jacob bought the birthright, Jacob stole it.

Believers Robbing From God: Malachi 3:8-10.

Deprivation Of Justice: Isaiah 10:1-3.

**3. Why Stealing Is Wrong:** Stealing goes against the very nature of God which is love. Love that gives, John 3:16.

2 Corinthians 8:9

Giving is God, and it is a family trait, Acts 20: 35.

It works injury to others; the story of Esau and Jacob.

Later, Jacob was ripped off by his uncle Laban and he was outraged, Genesis 29: 25-26.

It works injury to the thief himself. Stealing Is Walking In Deception.

Positive: Respecting Others Property. When We Take From A Person, We Are taking From God Because All Things Belong To God. We Also Steal From The Person That Is The Manager Of God's Property.

### **Application: The Remedy To Stealing:**

We Need Regeneration; We need conversion. Romans 13 – the answer to obeying the commandments is the have God's love and then to love others. When you love others, you will not steal from them.

We Need To Make Restitution: Luke 19: 8

Ephesians 4: 28

Make A List Of Everything We Have That Is Not Ours And Return It To Its Rightful Owner.