

“God is Great, Beer is Good, &
People Are Crazy”:
The Ten Commandments

Grad & Career Fall '11

Desire for Fullness

The Eighth Commandment

1. How Do We Talk about Stealing?

- *Individual*: More and more specific definitions of stealing like the Puritans. Modern applications of what stealing looks like in our lives.
- *Political*: Capitalism vs. Socialism
- *Philosophical*: Right to property ownership/ what is property?
- *Spiritual*: Stealing from God - our time, energy, money
“Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me.
“But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’
“In tithes and offerings. - Malachi 3:8
- *Financial*: View of money in our lives
- *Lifestyle*: Simple/Generous

Simplistic Solutions for Our Sin???

"What is to be done to avoid stealing? (1) Live in a calling...(2) Be content with the estate that God has given you." - Thomas Watson, *The Ten Commandments*.

2. What is Stealing?

“The eighth commandment assumes that God has given to human beings ownership of property. Of course, ultimately all property belongs to God. But he does call human beings to take dominion over the earth in his name. We are, in other words, stewards of God, given the responsibility to care for God’s creation. To his stewards, God also gives the right to enjoy that creation. We are to administer this inheritance to God’s glory as well as to our own benefit.” – John Frame, *The Doctrine of the Christian Life*.

2. What is Stealing?

“Work is the antithesis of theft. “Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.” (Eph. 4:28) Labor replaces theft as a means of sustenance. And more than that: it turns the thief into a benefactor. Rather than taking what belongs to others, he gives to others what is his. So the eighth commandment mandates a lifestyle of generosity, of compassion, of love...To keep the eighth commandment is both to give everyone his due, and beyond that, to sacrifice our own goods for love of others, as Jesus gave his life for us. The eighth commandment mandates both justice and mercy.”

- John Frame, *The Doctrine of the Christian Life*.

2. What is Stealing?

- “...giving and lending freely, according to our abilities, and the necessities of others...”
- “...and an endeavor, by all just and lawful means, to procure, preserve, and further the wealth and outward estate of others, as well as our own..”
- “...inordinate prizing and affecting worldly goods; [\[833\]](#) distrustful and distracting cares and studies in getting, keeping, and using them; envying at the prosperity of others...”

- *Westminster Larger Catechism Questions 141-142*

3. What keeps us furthering the wealth of others?

- Lack of Compassion

- “Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy.” – Ezekiel 16:49

4. Why do we lack compassion?

- We are self-sufficient
 - Our self-sufficiency is rooted in our lack of trust in God being a God who has the (1) power and (2) willingness to provide.
 - “Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.” – 1 Timothy 6:17

4. Why do we lack compassion?

"What it must be saying is this: "I don't want you stealing because I am your Provider. I want you to understand and believe I am the One will supply all your needs. I don't want you to scheme, manipulate, and deceive to obtain things. For then what you would you become? A schemer, a manipulator, and a deceiver. I don't want you to feel responsible for securing your own future." - Ron Mehl, *The Ten(der) Commandments*.

5. Jesus is Life-to-the-Full

⁷ Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep

5. God's People in His Fullness

¹⁸ The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass. ¹⁹ The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, ²⁰ the fifth onyx, the sixth ruby, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth turquoise, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. ²¹ The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass.

6. God's People in His Fullness

⁹ One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “*Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.*”¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.¹¹ It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.¹² It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.¹³ There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west.¹⁴ The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

Application: Donation Drive

- World Relief Durham:

- We're low on items for refugees: pillows (\$3 at Target), light bulbs, lamps, can opener, trash bags, trash cans, sharp knives, deodorant, toilet paper.

