



The 10 Commandments
The Power of Honesty
The Eighth Commandment

What's Mine is God's

Besides **NOT** stealing, this commandment has to do with ownership of property, stewardship, giving and praising God.

Introduction:

- **The tent of thieves**— *Joshua 7*—One of the most glaring examples of theft and its consequences is Achan. Stealing most often harms more people than just the thief.
- **What is Stealing?** The Hebrew word ‘ganaf’ covers all conventional types of theft: burglary; robbery; larceny; hijacking; shoplifting; pickpocketing and purse-snatching; embezzlement; extortion, and racketeering. The opposite of stealing is ‘**stewardship**.’

A. What's Wrong With Stealing?

Stealing has no respect for the providence of God!

1. **God's provision for me:** Every theft is a failure to trust in God's provision. When we steal we deny that God has given us or is able to give us everything we truly need. Keeping the 8th Commandment is an exercise of our faith in God's providence. *Matthew 6:25-34 Seek first the kingdom of God...*
2. **God's provision for others:** Stealing robs what God has provided for someone else. The 8th Commandment assumes a right of ownership. *Luke 10:29-37 Good Samaritan*

B. What's Right With Stewardship

1. **Ownership:** The 8th Commandment implies that property ownership is endorsed by God. However, ownership is NOT possessing things to use for our own purposes, but receiving things from God to use for His glory.
2. **What is stewardship?** [*Gen 2:15*] Stewardship is managing what God has given us. There are four things that characterize a good steward:
 - a. **Obey God:** Adam and Eve were NOT good stewards as they disobeyed God. They took an unnecessary risk—a gamble—and paid the consequences.
 - b. **Invest wisely:** [*Luke 12:41-46; Matt 6:19-20*] These two passages teach that God wants us to use ‘wisdom’ in how we manage resources for the glory of God.
 - c. **Have a focused heart:** [*Matt 6:21*] As with the rest of the 10 Commandments, ‘do not steal’ has an inner heart component. We don't wake up one day and decide to go out and steal something.

I am entitled: When I start seeing possessions as things I am entitled to, how I get them becomes secondary.

- d. **Serve God:** Matt [6:22-24] To have a good ‘eye’ means that you are looking at God. You trust in His provision. This impacts your whole outlook on life. You can't ‘serve’ God and money.

Exodus 20:15 (NKJV)
:15 You shall not steal.

Matthew 6:19-24 (NKJV)

:19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;

:20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

:21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

:22 "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light.

:23 But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

:24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Genesis 2:15

NKJV 2:15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

MSG Gen 2:15 GOD took the Man and set him down in the Garden of Eden to work the ground and keep it in order.

“The only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. Our charities should pinch and hamper us. If we live at the same level of affluence as other people who have our level of income, we are probably giving away too little.”

C. S. Lewis (1898–1963)