



Lecture # 10 Part 2

The Ten Commandments, The Laws Governing Man's Duty To Others (Part 8): Commandment Eight Concerns Man's Property—Never Steal, [Exodus 20:15](#)

The Eighth Commandment The Sanctity of Property “Lo tignov” ([Exodus 20:13](#)) “Thou shalt not steal”

[Exodus 20:15 \(BHS\)](#)

¹⁵ לֹא תִגְנוֹב: ם

“Lo tignov”

[Exodus 20:15 \(KJV\)](#)

¹⁵ “Thou shalt not **steal**.”

[Exodus 20:15 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁵ “You shall not **steal**.”

([Exodus 20:15](#)) Introduction— Commandments, The Ten— Stealing: think for a moment. What is *the crime* most often committed within your community? The nation? Around the world? Probably stealing. So many people steal that stealing has become a very commonplace crime of society. If the thief does not assault or kill the victim, he is simply called a *common thief*. **Thievery, **robbery**, and **swindling** have become epidemic, contributing to the lawlessness within society. And stealing is such a terrible epidemic that it threatens the very foundation of society itself.**

Just think of.....

1. government leaders who steal and misuse funds
2. employees who steal from their employer
3. employers who steal through unfair prices and wages
4. dishonest athletes and famous people who steal
5. acquaintances and neighbors who steal and are dishonest
6. people who steal by living extravagant and indulgent lifestyles, hoarding and banking when so many are in such desperate need throughout the world
7. people who steal by taking so much of the earth's wealth and resources

Stealing **shows disrespect** for property and for human life. Stealing leads to more and more lawlessness, sometimes even assault and murder. Stealing always creates some havoc, and it can cause devastation. Stealing can bankrupt families, companies, communities, and even nations. Stealing always causes loss, **loss for both the victim and the thief**. The victim, of course, loses whatever object (physical or otherwise) is stolen; but in addition, the loss can be very painful and sometimes irreplaceable.



Lecture # 10 Part 2

The thief, though frequently undetected by men, always loses his **reputation**, **integrity**, and **character** before God; and eventually, unless he repents and turns from his sin, he loses his soul.

This is the subject of this important commandment: *Commandment Eight Concerns Man's Property—Never Steal*, [Exodus 20:15](#).

1. [Who is to obey this commandment? How long was this commandment to be in force \(v.15\)?](#)
2. [What is forbidden by this commandment \(v.15\)?](#)
3. [What is the decision required by this commandment \(v.15\)?](#)

1. [\(Exodus 20:15\) Commandments, The Ten— Stealing— Responsibility: Who is to obey this commandment? How long was this commandment to be in force?](#)

[Exodus 20:15 \(BHS\)](#)

¹⁵ לֹא תִגְנוֹב: ם
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Was it only for the people of ancient times or is it for us today as well? Stealing has been a problem for society as long as man has been on the earth, a serious problem. God gave this commandment because He cares for man, so much so that He wants to protect everything that concerns man, both his life and his property. Frankly, it would be foolish to suggest that God was concerned for the people and property of the ancient world but is unconcerned with the people and property of our day.

Note the verse: “You shall not steal.” This commandment is directed to you and to every person who will ever live. It was wrong to steal in the ancient world, a terrible violation against man and God, and it is wrong to steal today. This commandment is in force today as much as it was in force for Israel:

[Exodus 20:15 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁵ “You shall not **steal**.”

[Ephesians 4:28 \(NASB\)](#)

²⁸ “**He who steals must steal no longer**; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have *something* to share with one who has need.”



Lecture # 10 Part 2

2. (Exodus 20:15) Commandments, The Ten— Property— Stealing— Theft: What is forbidden by this commandment.

Exodus 20:15 (BHS)

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Exodus 20:15 (KJV)

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Exodus 20:15 (NASB)

¹⁵ “You shall not **steal**.”

“You shall not steal”? How is this commandment violated, broken?

1. **Stealing** (*ganab*) means “to take and keep something that belongs to another person.”

William Barclay says:

“[Stealing] is a ‘natural’ sin. It is human nature to want what we have not got; and the desire may turn to action; and, when it does, a man may steal. We do not need to argue about the rightness of this commandment. Everyone agrees that stealing is wrong.”

God has made man a working being, a being that must **work, produce, achieve, accomplish,** and **possess**. The desire to move ahead and progress is planted within man by God. This is the reason we desire things that we do not have. The desire is normal and natural; it is God-given. **But the legitimate way** to fulfill that desire is to work for what we want and can achieve in life. **The illegitimate way** to fulfill the desire is to steal. When we act out our desire and take something that does not belong to us—take it either secretly or by force—it is stealing.

2. Note that stealing is a **heart problem**: the cause, the source of stealing, is found in the human heart. Stealing begins with a **desire, a passion, a lust, an urge, a coveting** within man. When the desire is planted—when it conceives and it is carried out—the person steals. This is exactly what God says:

James 1:14-15 (NASB)

¹⁴ “But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.

¹⁵ Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.”

Thought 1. Note an excellent example of coveting—of desiring and lusting—in Scripture.



Lecture # 10 Part 2

Joshua 7:21 (NASB)

²¹ “When I saw among the spoil a beautiful mantle from Shinar and two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold fifty shekels in weight, then I coveted them and took them; and behold, they are concealed in the earth inside my tent with the silver underneath it.”

Thought 2. Arthur W. Pink points out the following:

- 1) Stealing was the first sin committed by the human race: Eve took of the forbidden fruit.

Genesis 3:6 (NASB)

⁶ “When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.”

- 2) Stealing was the first recorded sin committed by Israel after entering Canaan: Achan stole the spoils of war.

Joshua 7:21 (NASB)

²¹ “When I saw among the spoil a beautiful mantle from Shinar and two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold fifty shekels in weight, then I coveted them and took them; and behold, they are concealed in the earth inside my tent with the silver underneath it.”

- 3) Stealing was the first sin to defile the early church: Ananias and Sapphira kept back some of the money from the sale of their property, money that was to be given to the church.

Acts 5:1-3 (NASB)

¹ “But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property,
² and kept back *some* of the price for himself, with his wife's full knowledge, and bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the apostles' feet.
³ But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back *some* of the price of the land?"

3. God's purpose for commanding people not to steal can be simply stated: it is to protect a person's property and his right to own property, to preserve peace among neighbors and within society. Stealing causes loss—sometimes terrible loss—to the victim. And stealing always leads to **hard feelings, broken relationships, and sometimes revenge.**

This commandment protects a person's right...

- a. to feed, house, clothe, and provide for himself and his family



Lecture # 10 Part 2

- b. to own property
- c. to reap and keep the property and rewards of his labor
- d. to secure enough goods and money to help meet the desperate needs of the poor, the suffering, and the lost of this world

Ephesians 4:28 (NASB)

²⁸ **“He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need.”**

2 Thessalonians 3:10-12 (NASB)

¹⁰ **“For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either.**

¹¹ **For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies.**

¹² **Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread.”**

4. Now, how is this commandment broken, violated? Stealing is so common and so costly to society that the way people go about stealing needs to be studied. Moreover, stealing is not only a sin against society and the people stolen from; stealing is a sin against God. Stealing condemns a person to death, eternal death—unless the person repents and turns to God. For this reason, the various forms of stealing need to be looked at in some detail.

A person breaks God’s commandment, a person steals.....

1. by robbing a person, store, company, organization or bank
2. by loafing on the job
3. by not paying bills
4. by failing to pay debts
5. by not paying due taxes
6. by keeping something borrowed
7. by stealing the reputation and character of another through lies, gossip, or rumor
8. by taking away a person’s right to justice (**Isaiah 10:1-3**)
9. by unjustly extending business trips at company expense
10. by manipulating information or stocks for personal gain
11. by arriving at work late or leaving work early without permission
12. by false or deceptive advertising
13. by shoplifting
14. by keeping an overpayment or excessive refund check, or over-shipment of goods
15. by overcharging or price-gouging: charging unfair prices
16. by not paying fair and just wages
17. by not giving a full day’s work on the job
18. by taking things from one’s employer
19. by making unauthorized phone calls
20. by padding expense reports



Lecture # 10 Part 2

21. by abusing sick days
22. by stealing and enslaving people for work and profit
23. by breaking the rules or cheating to win something, a game or a prize

Isaiah 10:1-3 (NASB)

¹“Woe to those who enact evil statutes And to those who constantly record unjust decisions,

² So as to deprive the needy of justice And rob the poor of My people of *their* rights, So that widows may be their spoil And that they may plunder the orphans.

³ Now what will you do in the day of punishment, And in the devastation which will come from afar? To whom will you flee for help? And where will you leave your wealth?”