



Lecture # 11 Part 1

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

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

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**.”

All acts of stealing are wrong, but there is one form of stealing that is most serious and damning, that of robbing God:

- a. A person robs God by failing to pay his tithes and offerings to God.

Malachi 3:7-9 (NASB)

⁷ “From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from My statutes and have not kept *them*. Return to Me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD of hosts. “But you say, ‘How shall we return?’
⁸ Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, ‘How have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings.
⁹ You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you!”

- b. A person robs God by living a hypocritical, inconsistent life. When a person professes to believe and follow God, then fails to follow through, he robs God and other men of a *godly testimony*.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NASB)

¹⁹ “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?
²⁰ For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.”



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- c. A person robs God by living for self and the world, by choosing not to live for God. God is the great Creator of man; therefore, man owes his life—all he is and has—to God. When a person chooses to live like he wants, he steals his life from God.

Romans 12:1-2 (NASB)

¹ “Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is your spiritual service of worship.*

² **And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”**

1 John 2:15-16 (NASB)

¹⁵ **“Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.**

¹⁶ **For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.”**

Thought 1. This commandment against stealing is broken when property is taken, no matter how little and insignificant the item may be. **F.B. Huey** again has an excellent comment on the breaking of this commandment.

“The spirit of this commandment can be broken in ways other than taking the property of another violently or covertly. The employee who takes paper clips, postage stamps, stationery, etc., from his employer for personal use, the taxpayer who falsifies his tax return, the friend who borrows money or even a cup of sugar without intent of returning it, the shopkeeper who uses dishonest scales or engages in any kind of fraudulent business practice, the student who takes credit for work that was done by someone else, the employee who loafs on the job but accepts full wages, or the nation that takes the land of another by war—all violate this commandment.”

Maxie Dunnam also has an excellent application on this commandment:

“One of the tragedies of our day is how the justice system treats crimes of stealing. Poor people, with no money to hire legal defense, waste away in prisons for stealing a car or a television, while officers of huge corporate organizations preside in posh board rooms, though it is proven they have manipulated the stock market. Television gives us almost daily reports of defense contract ‘cost overrides’ that steal millions of tax dollars.... Ours is a society ‘on the take,’ and stealing is one of our most blatant sins....

“Apart from the obvious ways of seeing this commandment broken, we should think of the more subtle ways we break it.



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1. by not giving our employers a full day for the pay we receive
2. by stealing the good name of another with malicious gossip
3. by remaining silent, thus stealing from another the word that might preserve reputation and/or undergird character
4. by failing to give to others the support, praise, and credit they're due.”