



Don't Steal

Exodus 20:15

Stuart McCray, Associate Pastor

November 10, 2019

The 8th Commandment—"You shall not steal"—instructs us to both not take what is not ours *and* to be good stewards of and to be generous with what is. At its heart, this commandment is about loving neighbor, admitting that everything belongs to God, and trusting God's providential care for us.

1. What God is Asking Us to Not Do.

God is commanding us to not take what doesn't belong to us.

3 areas that the OT applies this law to:

- Taking People (Exodus 21:6)
- Taking Land (Deuteronomy 19:14)
- Falsifying Weights & Measures (Deuteronomy 25:13-14)

There are many other forms of "stealing".

Any kind of stealing comes down to elevating self over neighbor and, what's more, every violation of the 8th Commandment is ultimately a sin—and offense—against God.

2. What God is Asking Us to Do.

God is also positively calling us to be good stewards of and be generous with what is ours.

Stewardship

Generosity

Questions to Consider

1. How does theft (of any kind) dishonor God's providential care for His children?
2. How is contentment in Christ related to the 8th Commandment?
3. Read Malachi 3:8-9. How does the prophet talk about tithing ("giving") in connection with the 8th Commandment?
4. Read Luke 12:13-21 and 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. How does greed factor in as a violation of the 8th Commandment? How does generosity factor into obeying this commandment?
5. Read Matthew 13:44-45. How do these parables reshape your perspective on your material assets? How can you cultivate this perspective in your own heart and life?
6. Violating this commandment can come in so many different ways, how were you convicted? Where are you in need of more grace for change?

Next Week's Sermon Text: Exodus 20:16