

You shall not steal

Exodus 20:15

16 January 2011

I. Stealing

- A. To take something that is not yours, usually in secret
- B. Forbidden in all cultures (see Exodus 22)
- C. Kinds of stealing:
 - i. Outright theft
 - ii. Man-stealing (Exodus 21:16; Deuteronomy 24:7)
 - iii. Cooking the books (unequal weights, moving boundaries)
 - iv. Unethical pricing
 - v. Greedy lawsuits
 - vi. Corruption in government and compensation
 - vii. Depriving others of their livelihood
 - viii. Improvidence
- D. Offense against others, against our created nature, and against God (Proverbs 30:8-9)
- E. Paul's two-part antidote (Ephesians 4:28)

II. Working

- A. Negative and positive: we *don't* steal; we *do* work
- B. Offense against created nature: we were made to work (Genesis 2:15)
- C. Laziness gets harsh treatment in Scripture (Proverbs 6:6,9; 10:26; 13:4; 15:19; 19:24; 20:4; 21:25; 22:13; 24:30; 26:13-16)
- D. Going without work is a tremendous trial, especially for a man
- E. If we do not work for a living, we will steal
- F. In whatever way you are able, work
- G. We are in this together; I will share the burden with you (see 1 Timothy 5:8)

III. Giving

- A. Negative and positive: we *don't* steal; we *do* give to those in need
- B. I do not love only myself, I love others; my life is about others
- C. Giving *prevents* theft (Proverbs 6:30)
- D. Giving *is the opposite of* theft
- E. Jesus on possessions and money (Matthew 5:39; Luke 6:29; Matthew 6:3-4,19-20)

IV. Worshiping

- A. Stealing is ultimately an offense against God. (Psalm 24:1)
- B. How can we become what we are supposed to be?
- C. Work: I trust God to provide for my needs by the means he has given me
- D. Giving: I know the cost of the gift of my salvation, and I will imitate God by giving to meet the needs of others (1 Corinthians 3:21-23)
- E. The message of worship to God: you are my treasure; nothing else is. (1 Peter 1:3; Philippians 3:20; Psalm 73:25)