



New Mount Zion M.B. Church
Bible Class May 18, 2020

“Understanding The Ten Commandments”
#8th Commandment

What is the eighth commandment? Thou shall not steal.

Stealing is taking away another man's property by force or fraud, without the knowledge, and against the will of the owner thereof. Any form of stealing is prohibited, and it is a sin.

People steal because they want something for nothing. I read a statistic that said every three seconds in the United States somebody takes what doesn't belong to them. People steal even in the church.

Every person has broken the commandment:

Every person has stolen. Yes! No one can deny this. We, at one time or another, has taken what was not given, lifted something that was not purchased, owned something we did not earn, kept something we did not inherit, destroyed something that was not ours etc.

Whether it's a friend's toy, a customer's or seller's balance, a scammed slice of software, a copyrighted piece of music (piracy), taped or written, that small office supply from the office, that idea someone else worked hard to put together, getting that extra special deal at a garage sale for a person who didn't know the value of what they were selling, time from our employer, even a person's innocence, or their good reputation taken away, destroyed by gossip. The myriad of ways to steal is endless.

Man can steal from fellow-man and rob God. If you do not tithe, you rob God. Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me. But you say, Wherein have we robbed Thee? In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse: for you have robbed Me (Malachi 3:8-9).

The Eighth Commandment protects personal property and teaches us to respect the property of others. More than that, in its spiritual intent it contrasts two ways of life: getting versus giving. Consider how the apostle Paul describes the opposite of stealing: “Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need” (Ephesians 4:28).

Stealing from God?

The Eternal God is the Creator of everything that exists. Therefore He is the owner of the entire universe:

“The earth is the LORD’s, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein” (Psalm 24:1).

“Who has preceded Me, that I should pay him? Everything under the heaven is Mine” (Job 41:11).

“‘The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,’ says the LORD of hosts” (Haggai 2:8).

It is to our benefit to remember that God is the source of every good gift that we have (James 1:17). So God allows us to enjoy His blessings, and He only asks that we acknowledge Him with a tenth (a tithe) of what He provides.

God's provision for us is sufficient and we need not to steal . We must fight to overcoming the evil each day presented to us. What we steal is only worldly and in any minute perishing. Let's focus on heaven.

Matthew 21: 12-13;

Matthew 6: 19-34

*What is the difference in stealing and robbing?
Stealing is referred to theft in secret (Genesis
31:27) while robbing is considered theft with
open force or to defraud.*

*At that time people will take their purse and
belongings with them to the altar.*

*When stealing takes place it is often accompanied
by other things such as deception and trickery.*

Most people believe that they have and that they are keeping this commandment.

We should not think that we have kept this commandment just because we have not forced our way into another person's home and walked off with his possessions.

We steal from God when we fail to worship him as we ought or when we set our own concerns ahead of his.

We steal from an employer when we do not give the best work of which we are capable or when we overextend our coffee breaks or leave work early.

We steal if we waste company products or use company time for personal matters. We steal if we sell something for more than it is worth.

We steal when we borrow something and do not return it. We steal from ourselves when we waste our talents, time, or money.

That's the attitude of the businessperson who pads an expense account. Those who cheat on their income tax, or purchase goods on credit with no possibility or intention of paying for them are also guilty. Cheating on a test robs other students as well as yourself.

A wife informed her husband, "The housekeeper has stolen two of our brand-new towels." Her husband replied, "Well, some people are just like that. Which ones did she take?" The wife said, "The ones we took from the hotel last week."

Merchants will steal from customers or cheat customers. (Deuteronomy 25: 13-16)

Joshua 7:1 (Achan stole items that were devoted from GOD, people will still even in the church.)

Judas stole money (John 12:4-6)

What is “man: stealing? Some interpret the 8th commandment as being “man” stealing which is kidnapping which some say is the worst form of stealing. (Genesis 40:15 & Exodus 21:16)

Am I just as guilty receiving stolen property, movies, clothes, or other things as I am stealing them?