

**"It's Not OK to Steal!"**  
(Exodus 20:15)

The eighth commandment, "*Thou Shalt Not Steal*" is a mandate to respect others by not taking their property or cheating them in any way. It is also a strong reminder that God ordained hard work to provide for our needs and generous giving to help others in need.

**I. The REALITY of Stealing (Exodus 20:15)**

- **Stealing From Others**  
(Ex 22:1-5, 25-27; Lev 19:13, 18, 35-36; Deut 22:1-4; 24:7)
  - Stealing property (Ex 22:1-5)
  - Charging interest (Ex 22:25-27)
  - Holding back money that is due (Lev 19:13)
  - \*\*LOVE THY NEIGHBOR AS THYSELF\*\*** (Lev 19:18)
  - Cheating on sales price (Lev 19:35-36)
  - Not returning something lost (Deut 22:1-4)
  - Taking a neighbor as a slave (Deut 24:7)
- **Stealing From God**  
(Hag 1:2-4; Mal 1:13; 3:8-10; 1 Cor 6:19-20; Mk 8:35)
  - Not maintaining God's house (Hag 1:2-4)
  - Not giving God our best (Mal 1:13)
  - Not bringing tithes and offerings (Ma .3:8-10)
  - Not giving God our lives (1 Cor 6:19-20; 1 Pet 1:18-19)

**II. The REASONS for Stealing (Matthew 15:19)**

- **Selfish Reasoning Toward Others**
  - I need it more than they do
  - They won't even miss this
  - I don't care if it hurts them, I want this; They're charging me too much
  - I'm worth more than they're paying me here
  - The government is taxing me too much
- **Selfish Reasoning Toward God**
  - Life has not been fair to me -I can't help myself
  - I deserve to have this -I don't believe there are serious consequences
  - It's not that important to obey God -It's too hard to trust God to provide

**III. The REMEDY for Stealing (Ephesians 4:28)**

- **Obey Promptly**  
*"Let him that stole steal no more..."*
- **Work Diligently**  
*"but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing which is good..."*
- **Give Generously**  
*"that he may have to give to him that needeth..."*

**"It's Not OK to Steal!"**  
(Exodus 20:15)

**Small Group Discussion Guide**

**Icebreaker:** God encourages hard work, not stealing. Share a little bit about your first paying job.

1. Share something from Sunday's message that challenged you.
2. What are some ways that we break the eighth commandment? What are some ways that we steal from God?
3. How does "Thou shalt not steal" relate to the command to "Love thy neighbor as thyself?" (Consider Romans 13:8-10)
4. Stealing like all sin originates in the heart (Mat.15:19). What is some faulty reasoning that people may use to justify stealing? Try to explain Proverbs 6:30-31 in your own words.
5. How would you help someone who has a habit of stealing so that they can get the victory over this sin?

**Digging Deeper**

1. Review the scriptures listed in sections I and II of sermon outline. Carefully survey your life to see if you are guilty of stealing on any level. Do you need to make restitution with someone you have stolen from? Follow through with repentance and restitution as needed and God will be well-pleased.
2. What do the following texts tell us about the importance of a strong work ethic? Gen 3:19; Deut 5:13; Prov 13:14; 20:4; 24:30-35; 28:22; Acts 20:33-35; Col 3:22-25; 1 Thes 4:11-12; 2 Thes 3:7-12; 1 Tim 5:8

**For Next Week**

Exodus 20:16, "Thou shalt not bear false witness..."

Do a survey of these verses and jot down your thoughts on each.  
Deut 19:18-19; Ps 101:5, 7; 116:11; Prov 6:19; 12:2-3; 14:5; 24:28;  
Jn 8:44; Rom 3:4; Eph 4:15, 25, 29; Col 3:9; Titus 1:2; Jas 3:8; 1 Jn 2:4;  
Rev 21:8