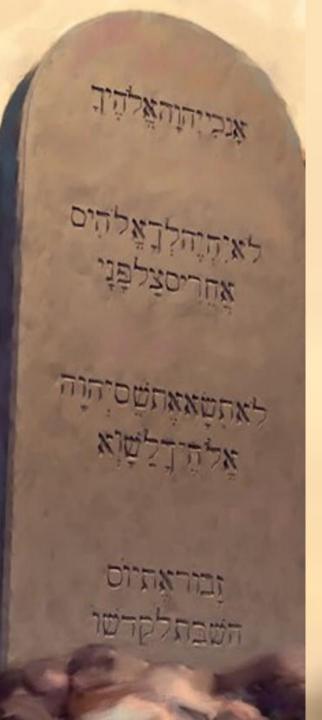


Deuteronomy 5:19 You shall not steal.

Main Idea

The 8th Word teaches that the LORD is a faithful provider and lavish in generosity; and, it requires that we do not steal but be good stewards and be generous with all our resources.



Do Not Steal

What must be understood to understand this Word?

What must be understood?

Principles of property ownership.

The LORD is owner of all!

Deuteronomy 10:14

Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the highest heavens, the earth and all that is in it.

Psalm 24:1

The earth is the LORD's, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it.

The greatest acts of thievery are in reference to God since *everything* belongs to Him, including you.

God has given the earth to us.

Psalm 115:16

The heavens are the heavens of the LORD;
But the earth He has given to the sons of men.

Psalm 8:4 and 6

What is man, that You take thought of him?
 And the son of man, that You care for him?
 You make him to rule over the works of Your hands;
 You have put all things under his feet.

God grants us private ownership

Deuteronomy 5:19
You shall not steal.

Stealing assumes property ownership.

Acts 5:3-4

But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back some of the price of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control?

Stealing is always personal

Genesis 3:19

By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, until you return to the ground.

Bread = the produce of one's life.

Sweat = some manner of exertion (labor).

All rightfully owned property comes by way of sweat; therefore, to take a person's property is to steal some measure of his life from him.

What must be understood?

Principles of property ownership.

The *heart* of stealing.

What is stealing?

Stealing, at its simplest, is taking something without permission that does not belong to you.

What is at the heart of stealing?

Distrust is at the heart of stealing.

Psalm 23:1

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

Psalm 34:10

The young lions do lack and suffer hunger; But they who seek the LORD shall not be in want of any good thing.

Do you believe this?

What is at the heart of stealing?

Distrust is at the heart of stealing.

Entitlement is at the heart of stealing.

Entitlement Toward God

Psalm 103:2

Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget none of His benefits.

The only way you could ever forget that God's benefits are gifts to you is to believe that you are entitled to them.

Entitlement thinking clears the way for theft because it convinces you that you are simply taking what you deserve.

What is at the heart of stealing?

Distrust is at the heart of stealing.

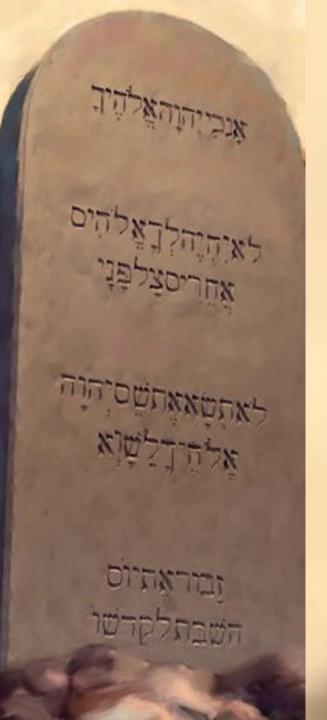
Entitlement is at the heart of stealing.

Greed is at the heart of stealing.

Hebrews 13:5

Let your character be free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you."

Love of Money → Discontent → Fear → Doubt



Do Not Steal

What must be understood to understand this Word?

What does the 8th Word require?

What does the 8th Word require?

That you do not take what does not belong to you.

Examples from the Scriptures

Stealing livestock or money. False weights and measures. Moving boundary markers. Bribery. Kidnapping (slavery).

Current Examples of Sinful Taking

Outright theft
Workplace theft
Marketplace theft
Community theft

What does the 8th Word require?

That you do not withhold what belongs to another.

Leviticus 19:13

You shall not oppress your neighbor, nor rob him.
The wages of a hired man are not to remain
with you all night until morning.

Jeremiah 22:13

Woe to him who builds his house without righteousness
And his upper rooms without justice,
Who uses his neighbor's services without pay
And does not give him his wages.

Even the intentional delay of payment is a form of stealing.

Deuteronomy 24:15

You shall give him his wages on the same day, before the sun sets (for he is poor and counts on it), lest he cry against you to the LORD, and you be guilty of sin.

What does the 8th Word require?

That you do not misuse, neglect, or willfully damage or allow damage to what does not belong to you.

Exodus 22:14

And if a man borrows anything from his neighbor, and it is injured or dies while its owner is not with it, he shall make full restitution.

The borrower is responsible for the thing borrowed.

An (Incomplete) List of Proscriptions:

Laziness; Taking advantage of unneeded assistance (disability, unemployment, welfare, benevolence); Carelessness; Neglect; Squandering resources; Gambling; Allowing the ruin of property; Allowing others to steal or do damage; Vandalism; Bribery; Slavery; Kidnapping; Counterfeiting; Insider trading; Deceitful contracts; False or misleading advertising; Overcharging for products or services; Underpaying for products or services; Usury; Cheating on exams, in games, or on taxes; Plagiarism; Copyright infringement; Licensing infringement; Wrongful lawsuits; Taking advantage of another's demise; Tardiness; Etc., Etc., Etc.

What does the 8th Word require?

That you be a good steward of all that God has given you.

Luke 16:10-12

He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much. If therefore you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous mammon, who will entrust the true riches to you? And if you have not been faithful in the use of that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own?

Remember, all things belong to God!

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

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?

For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

Poor stewardship of your own life is stealing from the One who bought you.

What does the 8th Word require?

That you be generous with all that God has given you.

Deuteronomy 15:7-8

If there is a poor man with you, one of your brothers, in any of your towns in your land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart, nor close your hand from your poor brother; but you shall freely open your hand to him, and shall generously lend him sufficient for his need in whatever he lacks.

1 John 3:17

But whoever has the world's goods, and beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

Ephesians 4:28

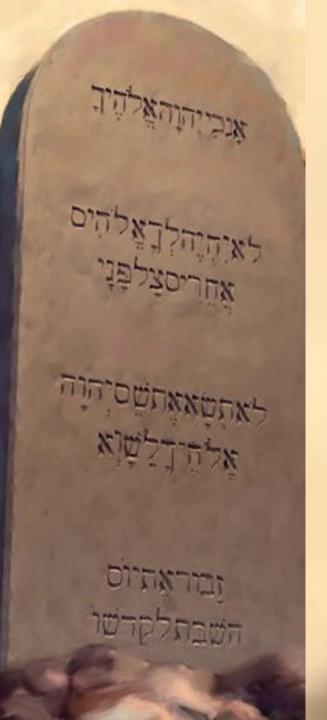
Let him who steals steal no longer;
but rather let him labor,
performing with his own hands what is good,
in order that he may have something
to share with him who has need.

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An (Incomplete) List of Prescriptions:

Diligence in study, preparation, and work; Honesty; Faithfulness; Forthrightness; Frugality; Fairness; Self-discipline; Self-control; Timeliness; Wise investing; Prudence; Patience; Watchfulness; Restitution; Good citizenship; Advocacy; Bravery; Self-sacrifice; Generosity; Etc., Etc.



Do Not Steal

What must be understood to understand this Word?

What does the 8th Word require?

What does the 8th Word teach us about God?

What does the 8th Word teach?

That the LORD is a faithful provider.

Genesis 22:14

And Abraham called the name of that place

The Lord Will Provide, as it is said to this day,

"In the mount of the Lord it will be provided."

Psalm 23:1

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

What does the 8th Word teach?

That the LORD is a faithful provider.

That the LORD is lavish with His gifts.

Psalm 84:11

For the LORD God is a sun and shield;
The LORD gives grace and glory;
No good thing does He withhold
from those who walk uprightly.

Ephesians 1:3, 6 and 7-8

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with **every spiritual blessing** in the heavenly places in Christ...

...to the praise of the glory of His grace, which **He freely bestowed** on us in the Beloved...

...according to the riches of His grace, which **He lavished upon us**.

Romans 8:32

He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

Conclusions

The Generosity of God is most demonstrated in the free gift of His Son.

Ultimately, stealing betrays a distrust in the goodness and faithfulness of God.

To love your neighbor is to not only to refrain from stealing from him but to open your heart to him in generosity in every way.