



THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

SET FREE TO LIVE FREE



Introductory Illustration

- Question: Do you relate more to Jean Valjean in the scene or the bishop?
- In a Barna survey, 86% of adults claimed they completely satisfied God's requirement of abstinence from stealing.
- “You shall not steal” (Exod. 20:15 NASB).

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Definition of Thief by Dr. Tony Evans

- Dr. Tony Evans said in the *Tony Evans Study Bible*, “Theft can take a variety of forms, including kidnapping, plagiarism, accepting praise, or credit that should have gone to another, not paying taxes, accepting a paycheck without earning it, and even withholding wages count. Theft also happens when we rob God by not contributing tithes (see Mal 3:8-10). Importantly, though, even career thieves can be forgiven (see Luke 23:39-43).”
- Note: Tithing will be discussed later

Key Points

- The Cause of Theft
- Categories of Theft
- The Cure for Theft

The Cause of Theft

- Pink said, “The root from which theft proceeds is *discontent* with the portion God has allotted, and therefrom a coveting of what He has withheld from us and bestowed upon others.”
- Ellison adds, “Stealing is a double sin. It is a sin against God, for it accuses him of not giving adequately, and it is a sin against love, for it is a denial of loving one’s neighbour as oneself.”

- Pink, Arthur Walkington. *The Ten Commandments*. Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software, 2005. Print.
- Ellison, H. L. *Exodus*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1982. Print. The Daily Study Bible Series.

The Oldest of Sins by Pink

The solemn and striking fact deserves pointing out that the first sin committed by the human species entailed *theft*: Eve took of (stole) the forbidden fruit. So, too, the first recorded sin against Israel after they entered the land of Canaan was that of theft: Achan stole from among the spoils (Josh. 7:21). In like manner the first sin which defiled the primitive Christian church was theft: Ananias and Sapphira “kept back part of the price” (Acts 5:2). How often this is the first sin committed outwardly by children! And therefore this Divine precept should be taught to them from earliest infancy. Years ago we visited a home, and our hostess related how she had that day secretly observed her daughter (about four years old) enter a room in which was a large bunch of grapes. The little tot eyed them longingly, went up to the table and then said, “Get thee hence, Satan. It is written, ‘Thou shalt not steal,’” and rushed out of the room.

•Pink, Arthur Walkington. *The Ten Commandments*. Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software, 2005. Print.

Categories of Theft

- Theft of Items, Money, or Pay for Labor (Exo. 22:1, Lev. 6:1-7, 19:13, Rom. 13:9, James 5:4)
- Theft of People (kidnapping, especially when such kidnapping leads to slavery) (Exo. 21:16, Deut. 24:17, 1 Tim. 1:10)
- Theft of Time (from employers or employee) - Eph 6:5-9
- Theft from God (all of the above categories are also technically against God but this one is specifically dealing with stewardship - see Mal. 3:8, Mat. 24:24-28)

Impact of Theft

- “Stealing threatens the social order and causes pain to others by undermining the ability to possess with sure access things that are useful and needful. The food thief makes others go hungry; the work animal thief interrupts farming; the kidnapper tears apart a family; the clothing thief makes another suffer from the sun or the cold. This command against stealing is also reinforced repeatedly in the New Testament (Matt 19:18 and parallels; Rom 2:21; 13:9; 1 Cor 6:10; Eph 4:28; Titus 2:10; 1 Pet 4:15).”
- Stuart, Douglas K. *Exodus*. Vol. 2. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2006. Print. The New American Commentary.

Theft of Time

- “There is also theft at work. Employees fill in false time cards and call in sick when they want a day off. They help themselves to office supplies, make long-distance phone calls, and pad their expense accounts. Sometimes they go so far as to embezzle, but a more common workplace theft is simply failing to put in a full day’s work. Instead, workers idle away their time, sitting in their offices and surfing the Internet, sending e-mail to friends—even playing computer games. Whenever we give anything less than our best effort, we are robbing our employer of the productivity we owe.”
- Illustration: Working from Home During Pandemic
- Ryken, Philip Graham, and R. Kent Hughes. *Exodus: Saved for God’s Glory*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2005. Print.

Consequences of Theft of Time

- “These are not victimless crimes. Employee theft of time and property costs American businesses and their investors more than 200 billion dollars a year. This affects all of us. According to some estimates, as much as one-third of a product’s cost goes to cover the various forms of stealing that occur on its way to the marketplace. This “theft surcharge,” as analysts call it, is a drag on our whole economy.”
- Ryken, Philip Graham, and R. Kent Hughes. *Exodus: Saved for God’s Glory*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2005. Print.

Theft by Companies

- “For their part, employers often steal from their workers. They demand longer hours than contracts allow. They downsize their workforce to improve their profits, and then the workers who still have jobs end up doing all their own work plus the work that used to be done by the people who were laid off! This is just a sophisticated way for companies to steal from their best employees.”
- Ryken, Philip Graham, and R. Kent Hughes. *Exodus: Saved for God’s Glory*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2005. Print.

Other “Hidden Ways” We Steal

- Psalm 37:21, “The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously.”
 - Deceptive marketing
 - Deceptive packaging
 - Deceptive accounting (e.g. hiding money in offshore accounts)
 - Price Gouging
 - Stealing from Stockholders (e.g. Enron)
- Ryken, Philip Graham, and R. Kent Hughes. *Exodus: Saved for God’s Glory*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2005. Print.

Theft From God

- "Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. 9 "You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation *of you!* 10 "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows. (Mal. 3:8-10 NASB)
- Does this apply to the church? All Scriptures apply to the church (2 Tim 3:16) but the question is how

General Comments about Tithing

- God owns 100% of our money, not just 10%
- There is a tithe that preceded the Mosaic law (Genesis 14:20) and this practice is mentioned again in the New Testament (Hebrews 7:2)
- The storehouse refers to the Jewish temple where taxes and offerings to God were brought, in which the law actually required three tithes constituting about 10%
- 10% is a good minimal standard (Raymond ill.)

2 Cor. 8:1-5 NASB

- Now, brethren, we *wish to make known* to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia,² that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality.³ For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, *they gave* of their own accord,⁴ begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints,⁵ and *this*, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.



The NT Standard

- God doesn't just want our money. He wants all of us: our time, talent, and treasure
- “What the Bible means by ownership is not possessing things to use for our own purposes, but receiving things from God to use for his glory. So at the same time that we are forbidden to take things that don’t belong to us, we are required to use what we have in ways that are pleasing to our God. To put it very simply, the eighth commandment isn’t just about stealing—it’s also about stewardship.”

• Ryken, Philip Graham, and R. Kent Hughes. *Exodus: Saved for God's Glory*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2005. Print.

Robbing God by Pink

“Another way in which we rob God is by an unfaithful discharge of our stewardship. That which God has entrusted to us may be just as really outraged by our mismanagement as if we interfered with another’s trust or plundered our neighbor’s goods. This commandment then requires from us that we administer our worldly estate, be it large or small, with such industry as to provide for ourselves and those dependent upon us. Idleness is a species of theft. It is playing the part of the drone and compelling the rest of the hive to support us. So prodigality is also a form of theft, since extravagance and wastefulness are a spending of that substance which God has divided to us in ‘riotous living.’”

Pink, Arthur Walkington. *The Ten Commandments*. Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software, 2005.
Print.

Robbing God

“Another way to rob God is to fail to give him the best of our time and our talents. All our abilities and opportunities come from God, and they are all to be used for his glory. The Bible says, “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men” (Col. 3:23). When we waste our time, or fail to develop our gifts to their highest potential, we are robbing God. Still another way to rob God is to break his law, and thus to deny him our obedience. Every violation of the Ten Commandments involves some form of theft. Bowing down to idols steals God’s worship. Desecrating the Sabbath steals his holy day. Murder steals life; adultery steals purity; lying steals the truth. But the real theft is that every sin we commit dishonors God, and thus steals the glory that our lives ought to give him.””

Ryken, Philip Graham, and R. Kent Hughes. Exodus: Saved for God’s Glory. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2005. Print.

+ THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

The Cure for Theft

- Recognize Everything is God's
- Prayer for Provision and Contentment
- Work So We Can Give to Others



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Realize Everything is God's

- “This commandment recognizes that the Lord owns everything in heaven and earth (as Pss 24:1; 115:16 also claim), and only he can give it or take it away. Therefore no man must despotically enslave or kidnap his fellow man or usurp the rights to property he has not owned or been given.”
- Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. “Exodus.” *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers*. Ed. Frank E. Gaebelein. Vol. 2. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1990. 425. Print.

Realize Everything is God's

- “This is a second way that stealing is a sin against God: It robs what he has provided for someone else. Here it is important to understand that the eighth commandment assumes a right of ownership. By saying, ‘You shall not steal,’ God indicated that people have a right to own their private property. Otherwise, the whole concept of stealing would fail to make any sense. Only something that belongs to someone can be stolen from them. But the reason that anything belongs to anyone is because it comes from God, and we do not have the right to take for ourselves what God has given to others.”
- Ryken, Philip Graham, and R. Kent Hughes. *Exodus: Saved for God's Glory*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2005. Print.

Praying for Provision

- Proverbs 30:8-9, “Keep deception and lies far from me, Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food that is my portion, That I not be full and deny You and say, ‘Who is the LORD?’ Or that I not be in want and steal, And profane the name of my God.”
- Prov. 6:30-31 (NASB), “Men do not despise a thief if he steals To satisfy himself when he is hungry; ³¹ But when he is found,³ he must repay sevenfold; He must give all the substance of his house.”

Praying for Contentment

- *Make sure that your character is 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,"* (Heb. 13:5 NASB)
- *If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.* (1 Tim. 6:8 NASB)

Working and Giving Generously

- He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need. (Eph. 4:28 NASB).
- When is a thief no longer a thief? When he starts giving.
- The negative command of not stealing is overcome by a change of heart driven by the gospel where we are taught to value work to give to others because we are content with what God has given us