

**“Who Me, Steal?”**  
The Ten Commandments — Part 8  
*Exodus 20:15*

"You shall not steal."  
Exodus 20:15

***The primary question the 8th Commandment asks is this,  
“Who is your provider?”***

**Definition: *Steal***—take without permission something that doesn't belong to you.

**1. There are many ways we steal:**

• We can steal people.

“Anyone who kidnaps another and either sells him or still has him when he is caught must be put to death.”  
Exodus 21:16

Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.  
Proverbs 22:6

• We can steal possessions.

"If anyone sins and is unfaithful to the Lord by deceiving his neighbor about something entrusted to him or left in his care or stolen, or if he cheats him, or if he finds lost property and lies about it, or if he swears falsely, or if he commits any such sin that people may do—when he thus sins and becomes guilty, he must return what he has stolen or taken by extortion, or what was entrusted to him, or the lost property he found, or whatever it was he swore falsely about. He must make restitution in full..."  
Leviticus 6:2-5

• We can steal intangibles—deception is a type of stealing.

“Do not use dishonest standards when measuring length, weight or quantity.”  
Leviticus 19:35

Both hands are skilled in doing evil; the ruler demands gifts, the judge accepts bribes, the powerful dictate what they desire—they all conspire together.  
Micah 7:3

No one calls for justice; no one pleads his case with integrity. They rely on empty arguments and speak lies; they conceive trouble and give birth to evil.  
Isaiah 59:4

• We can steal what belongs to God.

We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done. Psalm 78:4

"Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me." "But," you ask, "How do we rob you?" "In tithes and offerings."  
Malachi 3:8

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.  
Proverbs 3:5-6

## 2. What motivates us to steal?

- Some people steal for the thrill.
- Some people steal out of a sense of entitlement.
- Some people steal because they are "lazy."
- Some people steal because they believe everyone does it.
- Some people steal because they believe they won't get caught.
- Some people steal because of greed.
- We live in a culture that promotes our worth being determined by what we have rather than who we are.

"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Luke 11:9-13

### ***Never forget the "God Supply" principle!***

And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.  
Philippians 4:19

## 3. Why did God give this law?

- **Everything belongs to God.**

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.  
Psalm 24:1

- **God distributes what belongs to Him as He sees fit.**

Moreover, when God gives any man wealth and possessions, and enables him to enjoy them, to accept his lot and be happy in his work—this is a gift of God.  
Ecclesiastes 5:19

- **When we steal what God has given to another person, we sin against them and God.**
- **Stealing has to do with God's foundational principle of stewardship.**

**Three attitudes reflect  
our relationship to possessions:**

- An attitude of **thievery**: *“What’s yours is mine. I’ll take it.”*
- An attitude of **greed**: *“What’s mine is mine. I’ll keep it.”*
- An attitude of **stewardship**: *“What’s mine is God’s: I’ll share it.”*

*“But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you.”*

Luke 6:27-31

**4. We are all guilty thieves.**

***“If we look at mankind in all its conditions,  
it is nothing but a vast, wide stable of thieves!”***

Martin Luther

**5. How do we combat thievery in our lives?**

- Honesty
- Confession and Repentance
- Restitution—The example of Zacchaeus
- Learn to practice gratitude and contentment.

*“Don't collect any more than you are required to,” he told them. Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?” He replied, “Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”* Luke 3:13-14

**Application:** Jesus died as a thief so that every thief who trusts in Him could be forgiven and saved. (Hebrews 13:15-16)