

Timeline of Truth – Commandment #8: Do Not Steal (Exodus 20:15)

¹ And God spoke all these words, saying:	
² "I <i>am</i> the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.	
³ "You shall have no other gods before Me.	Nothing / No One But God Directing My Life
⁴ "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of <i>anything</i> that <i>is</i> in <u>heaven</u> above, or that <i>is</i> in the <u>earth</u> beneath, or that <i>is</i> in the <u>water</u> under the earth; ⁵ you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, <i>am</i> a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth <i>generations</i> of those who hate Me, ⁶ but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.	No Self-Defined Version of God
⁷ "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold <i>him</i> guiltless who takes His name in vain.	Not Misusing God's Name (Words, Actions)
⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day <i>is</i> the Sabbath of the LORD your God. <i>In it</i> you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who <i>is</i> within your gates. ¹¹ For <i>in</i> six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that <i>is</i> in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.	<u>Rest to Reflect</u> and to <u>Recharge</u>
¹² "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.	Treat Your Parents as God's Special Helpers to You
¹³ "You shall not murder.	No Death-Dealing Thoughts, Words, or Actions
¹⁴ "You shall not commit adultery. (same in Deut 5:18)	No Intimacy Outside of God-Designed Marriage
¹⁵ "You shall not steal. (same in Deut 5:19)	

1. Love Is the Basis of Not Stealing

Rom 13:9 For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

2. The Heart Is Where Stealing Begins

Matt 15:19 "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.

3. This Command Implies Several Truths

- The right to own property.
- The reward of laboring.
- The limit of government: no mandated social sharing. Taxes are OK, but not beyond is scope of responsibility assigned by God.

4. God Condemns All Forms of Stealing

1 Cor 6:9-10 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, ¹⁰ nor thieves...will inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Pet 4:15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters.

Stealing from God

- Mal 3:8-10 "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, *Even* this whole nation. ¹⁰ Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try 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 *such* blessing That *there will not be room* enough to receive it.

Stealing People

- Ex 21:16 "He who kidnaps a man and sells him, or if he is found in his hand, shall surely be put to death.
- Deut 24:7 "If a man is found kidnapping any of his brethren of the children of Israel, and mistreats him or sells him, then that kidnapper shall die; and you shall put away the evil from among you.

Stealing Through Dishonesty

- Deut 25:13 "You shall not have in your bag differing weights, a heavy and a light.
- Matt 21:13 And He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer, but you have made it a 'den of thieves.'"

Stealing Time

- Col 3:22 Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God.

Slow Payment of Wages (Extended: What Is Owed)

- Lev 19:13 `You shall not cheat your neighbor, nor rob him. The wages of him who is hired shall not remain with you all night until morning.

Abusing Hospitality

- Deut 23:24 "When you come into your neighbor's vineyard, you may eat your fill of grapes at your pleasure, but you shall not put any in your container.

Representing God Falsely

- Jer 23:30-31 "Therefore behold, I *am* against the prophets," says the LORD, "who steal My words every one from his neighbor. ³¹ "Behold, I *am* against the prophets," says the LORD, "who use their tongues and say, `He says.'

Stealing Small Things from Employers & Others

- Titus 2:9-10 *Exhort* bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all *things*, not answering back, ¹⁰ not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.

Taking Advantage of the Poor

- Prov 22:22-23 Do not rob the poor because he *is* poor, Nor oppress the afflicted at the gate; ²³ For the LORD will plead their cause, And plunder the soul of those who plunder them.

5. The Opposite of Stealing Is Shown in the Practices of Mature Christians

Labor & Self Support

- Eph 4:28 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.
- Prov 13:11 Wealth gained by dishonesty will be diminished, But he who gathers by labor will increase.
- Prov 14:23 In all labor there is profit, But idle chatter leads only to poverty.
- 1 Thes 4:9-12 But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; ¹⁰ and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more; ¹¹ that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, ¹² that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and *that* you may lack nothing.
- 2 Thes 3:7-12 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you; ⁸ nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, ⁹ not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. ¹¹ For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. ¹² Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread.

Investing in Eternity (Redirecting the Heart)

- Matt 6:19-21 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
- 2 Cor 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

Giving to God by Giving to God's Work

To support those who spiritual lead (Gal 6:6-10)

Gal 6:6-10 Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches. ⁷ Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. ⁸ For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. ⁹ And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. ¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

To support those who evangelize (Phil 4:10-19)

Phil 4:10-19 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. ¹¹ Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: ¹² I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. ¹³ I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. ¹⁴ Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress. ¹⁵ Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. ¹⁶ For even in Thessalonica you sent *aid* once and again for my necessities. ¹⁷ Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. ¹⁸ Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things *sent* from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. ¹⁹ And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Giving to Others

- Acts 20:35 "I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"
- Prov 21:26 He covets greedily all day long, But the righteous gives and does not spare.
- Rom 12:10-13 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; ¹¹ not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; ¹² rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; ¹³ distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.
- Deut 15:7 "If there is among you a poor man of your brethren, within any of the gates in your land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart nor shut your hand from your poor brother,
- 1 John 3:16-18 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren. ¹⁷ But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? ¹⁸ My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.
- 1 Tim 6:18-19 Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, ¹⁹ storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.
- James 2:15-16 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what *does it* profit?
- Heb 13:16 But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.
- Prov 19:17 He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, And He will pay back what he has given.

Being Content

- Luke 3:14 Likewise the soldiers asked him, saying, "And what shall we do?" So he said to them, "Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages."
- Prov 17:1 Better is a dry morsel with quietness, Than a house full of feasting with strife.
- 1 Tim 6:6-10 Now godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. ⁸ And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. ⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Repaying Those We Have Wronged

- Luke 19:8 Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold."

Jer 7:8-11 ⁸ "Behold, you trust in lying words that cannot profit. ⁹ "Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, burn incense to Baal, and walk after other gods whom you do not know, ¹⁰ "and *then* come and stand before Me in this house which is called by My name, and say, 'We are delivered to do all these abominations'? ¹¹ "Has this house, which is called by My name, become a den of thieves in your eyes? Behold, I, even I, have seen *it*," says the LORD.

Isa 58:1-8 "Cry aloud, spare not; Lift up your voice like a trumpet; Tell My people their transgression, And the house of Jacob their sins. ² Yet they seek Me daily, And delight to know My ways, As a nation that did righteousness, And did not forsake the ordinance of their God. They ask of Me the ordinances of justice; They take delight in approaching God. ³ 'Why have we fasted,' *they say*, 'and You have not seen?' *Why* have we afflicted our souls, and You take no notice?' "In fact, in the day of your fast you find pleasure, And exploit all your laborers. ⁴ Indeed you fast for strife and debate, And to strike with the fist of wickedness. You will not fast as *you do* this day, To make your voice heard on high. ⁵ Is it a fast that I have chosen, A day for a man to afflict his soul? *Is it* to bow down his head like a bulrush, And to spread out sackcloth and ashes? Would you call this a fast, And an acceptable day to the LORD? ⁶ "Is this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness, To undo the heavy burdens, To let the oppressed go free, And that you break every yoke? ⁷ *Is it* not to share your bread with the hungry, And that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; When you see the naked, that you cover him, And not hide yourself from your own flesh? ⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the morning, Your healing shall spring forth speedily, And your righteousness shall go before you; The glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.