

Commandment 8 Don't Steal Deut. 5:19



- We put locks on doors to keep people out of our houses
- We put locks on our car doors so people don't steal our cars
- We use special keys to start our cars



- It is not too difficult to get into a house with a crowbar
- So we have security systems that help us protect our homes
- But things are still stolen



- There will always be people who want your things
- These people are greedy and they covet your things
- They take the things and these things don't cost anything to them
- And you have a loss



I. Stealing is a Heart Problem



- I remember the 1st time that I witnessed a theft
- I was about 8 years old and I had a new friend
- My friend took the sled, I am sure I said, “you can’t take it, it isn’t yours” He said something like, “I want it and they can buy another one”



- The heart of stealing is greed, I want it!
- And thieves will justify it, “the people can get another one”
- Or, “they have plenty of money to buy another one”
- The sin of thievery can also come from coveting, desiring something that someone else has.



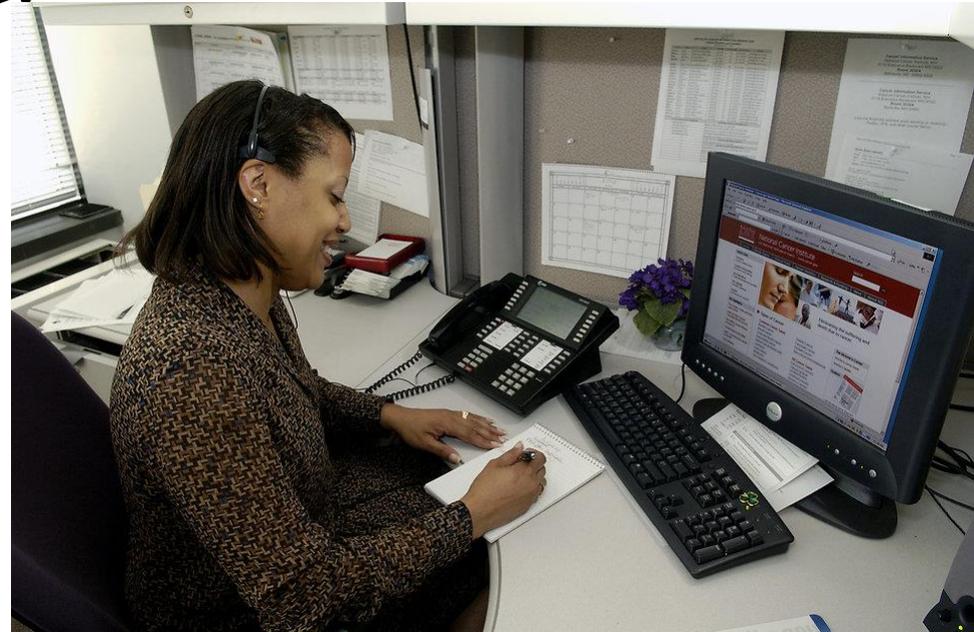
II. Working for what you have Ephesians 4:28



The Apostle Paul wrote this in
Ephesians 4:28

*Anyone who has been stealing must
steal no longer, but must work, doing
something useful with their own hands,
that they may have something to share
with those in need.*

- Instead of always taking from others, the thief should work
- That is, to have a job and make money so you can buy what you need.
- There is value in work



- And it isn't just any work, it is to do something *useful*
- There are jobs that are not morally right
- There aren't many jobs like that but there are a few
- If the boss asks you to do something illegal, it is a good time to quit.



- I had 2 jobs while getting my Master's degree
- I was a roofer, I nailed shingles on a hot roof in the summer
- For the rest of the 3 years in Seminary, I washed windows for storefronts and businesses.



- As a Christian there is one more step in the process of working
- Instead of stealing you work and in working you give
- So instead of taking from people you are giving to people
- Those who are in need



III. As we are Talking about Stuff

Matthew 6:19-21



- Jesus was teaching his disciples about stuff and money
- People think that they have to accumulate money and things
- I may need that money in the future
- What I have is not enough, I need to get more



- Have you ever been to an auction or estate sale?
- In America when people move out of their house or die the family will have an auction. All the stuff that this person had saved over the years is put on tables and sold to the highest bidder.



- If you are unlucky, a thief will take what you have
- So how do we protect ourselves from things getting stolen
- Put your things and money in God's bank
- No one can break into God's bank



- Christians should think differently about money and things
- It isn't mine, God has entrusted it to me
- And I need to use it wisely and be generous



- Where is your heart?
- Whatever you hold as a treasure, that's where your heart is
- Commit what you have to God
- And He will take care of you



Commandment 8 Don't Steal Deut. 5:19

Don't take other people's things
Don't take what isn't yours
We put locks on doors to keep people out of our houses
We put locks on our car doors so people don't steal our cars
We use special keys to start our cars
There was a time when stealing a car was fairly easy
Cut a couple wires under the dash and touch them
But that isn't true anymore, thieves are having a harder time stealing cars
and yet, some have figured it out and cars are stolen
It is not too difficult to get into a house with a crowbar
So we have security systems that help us protect our homes
But things are still stolen
If you have valuable things, there are safes to put things in
But there are always people that break in and steal
There are laws against that and it deters most people
There will always be people who want your things
These people are greedy and they covet your things
That's a different command that is related
They take the things and these things don't cost anything
And you have a loss
I remember living in a small town
Many people didn't lock their homes
They trusted everyone not to take their things
But in the rare occasion that something was stolen, the police would
round up the usual suspects and they would usually get it back
God has allowed us to buy and own things
And there are some people who are richer than others
And some are able to buy some nice things
If everyone was honest and didn't steal, we wouldn't have to lock our
homes, but we live in a world with some dishonest people

I. Stealing is a Heart Problem

Stealing is a sin, and it is a problem of the heart
I remember the 1st time that I witnessed a theft
I was about 8 years old and I had a new friend
I didn't know much about him, we were walking home from school
It was the winter and there was a sled in someone's front yard
My friend took it, I am sure I said, "you can't take it, it isn't yours"
He said something like, "I want it and they can buy another one"
I was shocked that anyone would think that
That wasn't how I was taught at home or church

Don't steal, don't take other people's things
The heart of stealing is greed, I want it!
And thieves will justify it, "the people can get another one"
Or, "they have plenty of money to buy another one"
The sin of thievery can also come from coveting, desiring
something that someone else has. You really want what someone
else has, you don't want to buy it, so you take it.
God has allowed us to have things
But how we get these things makes a difference
God wants us to get things by working for them

II. Working for what you have

The Apostle Paul wrote this in Ephesians 4:28
*Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must
work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they
may have something to share with those in need.*
Instead of always taking from others, the thief should work
That is, to have a job and make money so you can buy what
you need. There is value in work, it keeps the thief out of trouble
And he doesn't have to steal anymore to supply his needs
By the way, this is talking about the person who has become a
Christian. And Christ changes that person's life
They follow the command, don't steal
But work replaces stealing
And it isn't just any work, it is to do something *useful*
There are jobs that are not morally right
There aren't many jobs like that but there are a few
If the boss asks you to do something illegal, it is a good time
to quit. If the job leads people into sin, not a good job
Like working in a bar, or for the mafia, or a loan shark
One of my first jobs was a picking up dishes at a VFW
I was in a place where there was smoking, drinking, drunk people,
miserable people and I just didn't like it.
I lasted one Saturday night and quit
I didn't want to be in that environment
Whatever the job is, may it be a useful, good job
I had 2 jobs while getting my Master's degree
I was a roofer, I nailed shingles on a hot roof in the summer
People needed roofs and I was willing to get on the roof
And it supplied our needs for a summer
For the rest of the 3 years in Seminary, I washed windows for
storefronts and businesses. It paid well and had flexible hours
And people wanted clean windows and I had the equipment

I knew I wouldn't do it for a lifetime and was boring
And I dreamed about the last window that I would clean
There is a Phillip 66 station in Zion IL far north window
As a Christian there is one more step in the process of working
Instead of stealing you work and in working you give
So instead of taking from people you are giving to people
Those who are in need
And that is where the teaching of the Bible makes Christians different
Many people would stop at Don't Steal
But as a Christian I don't steal so I work so I can give
III. As we are Talking about Stuff Matthew 6:19-21
Jesus was teaching his disciples about stuff, money, and things
People think that they have to accumulate money and things
I may need that money in the future
What I have is not enough, I need to get more
I may need that thing for a future project
Have you ever been to an auction or estate sale?
In America when people move out of their house or die the family
will have an auction.
All the stuff that this person had saved over the years is put on tables and
sold to the highest bidder.
People gather around the tables to look for a good buy
And they buy stuff that will one day be in an auction
Sometimes no one bids on the stuff because it is worthless
So the auctioneer puts the worthless stuff with other stuff and it is sold
Things that were so important to be saved are sold for little to nothing
And if you save some stuff long enough, it rusts or rots
If you are unlucky, a thief will take what you have
So how do we protect ourselves from things getting stolen
Put your things and money in God's bank
No one can break into God's bank
You can't lose it if you put it there. Things don't rust or rot
And it is put in God's bank for forever
But you have to give it to God, you can't keep it

It may be in giving to the poor
It may be in giving to the church
It may be in sharing your things with someone in need
Christians should think differently about money and things
It isn't mine, God has entrusted it to me
And I need to use it wisely and be generous
Because when I hold onto things and only want them for myself
God has a way of teaching you that it isn't yours

Where is your heart?
Whatever you hold as a treasure, that's where your heart is
Do you want to keep everything for yourself?
You can't do that, you only live so long on this earth
You can't take it with you
Your children may not use your money wisely when
you are gone
Commit what you have to God
And He will take care of you