

THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT: HONOR GENEROSITY

Part 5 of LOVE PEOPLE. Exodus 20:15.

Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. July 31, 2022.

INTRODUCING THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

The Eighth Commandment

Exodus 20:14 (ESV) You shall not steal.

The Meaning of the Eighth Commandment

A definition of stealing:

"... the unauthorized and willful taking of what rightly belongs to another" (To Be A Christian - An Anglican Catechism, 2020, *Joshua 7:10–26; Proverbs 1:10–19; Luke 19:1–10; Acts 5:1–11*).

The reason for the eighth commandment:

"God is Creator and Lord of this world, and all things come from him. Therefore, I must never take what God has not entrusted to me" (To Be A Christian - An Anglican Catechism, 2020, *Exodus 23:19a; Leviticus 19:10–11a, 23–25; 1 Chronicles 29:14; Psalms 24:1–2; 50:7–12; Romans 13:9*).

How to break the eighth commandment:

"I can steal or defraud others of wages, identity, credit, or intellectual property; cheat in school or on my taxes; or fail to pay my debts" (To Be A Christian - An Anglican Catechism, 2020, *Exodus 23:8; Deuteronomy 24:10–15, 17–22; Proverbs 20:23; Jeremiah 22:13; Micah 6:11; James 5:4*).

The Implications of the Eighth Commandment

God wants to free us from greed so we can be full of generosity.

HOW TO BE FREE FROM GREED & FULL OF GENEROSITY

1. Move from an Old-Self Mindset to a New-Self Mindset

Before we can move from greed to generosity, we must experience the life-transforming power of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 4:21-24 (ESV) ... to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

- The old self:
- The new self:
- The new-self mindset:

2. Attack the Greedy Mindset

Ephesians 4:28 (ESV) Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands ...

- The greed that leads to stealing:
- The greed that leads to working:
- Attack the greedy mindset:
 - Greed undermines my devotion to God:

Matthew 6:24 (ESV) No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

- More stuff won't make me happier, and greed will destroy me:

1 Timothy 6:9-10 (ESV) Those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs (Also: 1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

3. Adopt the Generous Mindset

Ephesians 4:28 (ESV) ... rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

It doesn't teach us to work harder. It tells us to work for a higher purpose. Examples of the generous mindset:

- Gratitude: Because

Philippians 4:19 (ESV) And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus (See also Matthew 6:25-34).

- Contentment: Because

Philippians 4:11-13 (ESV) for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content ... 13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

- Purpose: Because

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (ESV) As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. 18 They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 19 thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

NEXT STEPS - THIS WEEK

During the week, take some steps to reflect on and apply today's Bible teaching. Do this alone, or with a friend, or in your small group.

Take a moment to evaluate where you are on the greed ----- generosity scale. Where do you want to be?

What are some of the ugly facts related to greed?

What did Jesus teach about the downside of greed in Luke 12:13-21?

What did Jesus teach about worry over meeting your needs in Matthew 6:25-34? What role does faith play in his approach to meeting your needs?

What did Jesus teach on creating eternal investments with our money today in Matthew 6:19-21.

Review 1 Timothy 6:17-19 and use its principles to create a financial policy for yourself that maximizes your generosity and potential to make a difference.

Check out this online resource for Bible-based financial planning: <https://seedtime.com>

Find a quiet place and talk to the Lord about finances, generosity, and your heart. Confess where you feel greedy. Ask for more grace to be generous. Ask for his guidance as you plan your finances.