

Intro:

WLC Q&A 142: “oppression, extortion ... ingrossing commodities to enhance the price”

Main Point of Text: God’s command not to oppress others is based on a holy fear of Him whom they reflect.

Gen. 2:27; 6:9: image of God is mankind. To oppress other people’s property/person is to steal from God.

Sermon Point: *Fear God in men.*

Move 1: *Don’t oppress people before their faces.*

LC:

- “vexatious lawsuits”:
 - 1 Cor. 6:6-8: Christians should not sue one another.
 - ... *Strive not with a man without cause, if he have done thee no harm.* (Pro 3:29-30)
- “unjust inclosures and depopulations”:
 - *And they covet fields, and take them by violence; and houses, and take them away: so they oppress a man and his house, even a man and his heritage.* (Mic 2:2)
 - *Rob not the poor, because he is poor: neither oppress the afflicted in the gate:* (Pro 22:22)
 - *Woe unto them that join house to house, that lay field to field, till there be no place, that they may be placed alone in the midst of the earth!* (Isa 5:8).

Move 2: *Don’t oppress people behind their backs.*

LC:

- “ingrossing commodities to enhance the price”: Monopolies. *He that withholdeth corn, the people shall curse him: but blessing shall be upon the head of him that selleth it.* (Pro 11:26)
- “extortion, usury”: 1) getting money/things by abusing your power; 2) making people owe you too much: *In thee have they taken gifts to shed blood; thou hast taken usury and increase, and thou hast greedily gained of thy neighbours by extortion, and hast forgotten me, saith the Lord GOD.* (Eze 22:12)
- “bribery”: Taking money to rig things. Giving contracts for favors. Selling out. *For the congregation of hypocrites shall be desolate, and fire shall consume the tabernacles of bribery.* (Job 15:34)

Move 3: *Don’t be an oppressive person, because people reflect God’s image.*

LC: “oppression”: Something God’s people are too often called out for by the prophets:

- Ezek. 22:29: *The people of the land have used oppression, and exercised robbery, and have vexed the poor and needy: yea, they have oppressed the stranger wrongfully.*
- Leviticus 25:17: Oppression: being violent; One another: fellow/comrade; Fear of God is what motivates people not to oppress other people.
- Gen. 2:27 and 6:9, image of God in man. Pro 14:31; 17:5; Mat 25:40; James 2:4-9.

Conclusion: *Fear God in men.*