

I. What is property?

- A. Many non-Christian perspectives
- B. Many Christian perspectives
- C. I wish I could answer this question!
- D. What is property *for*? Love.

II. Theft of property (vv. 1, 4)

- A. Restitution for theft if the animal is slaughtered or sold (see 2 Samuel 12:1-6; Luke 19:8)
- B. Restitution for theft if the animal is recovered alive
- C. Note: many cultures punished theft with death

III. Property damage (vv. 5-6)

- A. Damage to a field or vineyard
- B. Restitution (replacement of lost crop or plants)

IV. Bailment cases

- A. Entrusting property to another, whether or not for a fee
- B. Theft of money or goods entrusted to a neighbor for safekeeping (vv. 7-8)
- C. Death, injury, or loss of an animal entrusted to a neighbor for safekeeping
- D. An animal borrowed from a neighbor

V. Lawful defense of property (vv. 2-3)

- A. If a thief breaks in by night, he may be killed
- B. If a thief breaks in by day, he may not be killed

VI. The purpose of property

- A. The Old Testament law shows us justice: human life is more important than property
- B. Gregory the Great (540-604): the New Testament is even stricter! (see Luke 16:19-31)
- C. The purpose of property is love
- D. "All things are yours" (1 Corinthians 3:21-23; see Psalm 37:11; Matthew 35:5)
- E. What if you're the thief? (Psalm 130:4; Ephesians 4:28; Luke 19:8-10)
- F. What if you've shed blood? (Isaiah 1:18)