

“Let The Thief No Longer Steal”

Stop Grabbing. Start Giving.

Ephesians 4:28-32; 1 Samuel 8; Exodus 20:1-15
The Voice From The Fire Part 10 of 12

The positive notion of property ownership (specifically *private* ownership) underlies the serious Biblical prohibitions against theft. Today we consider the standard of the Eighth Commandment, which forbids us from taking what belongs to our neighbor. Today we ponder the mindset of thieves, the violence of theft, and the godly alternative by which we fulfill our eternal purpose as God’s imagebearers. Let us honor our God by *lawfully acquiring* property ourselves and being wary of those who steal it from others. Let us help thieves stop grabbing ... and start giving!

I. The _____ of private ownership.

- 1) The cultural mandate (Ge. 1:28) guides us into _____ of property.
- 2) But the eternal word defines this acquisition as _____ (1 Ti. 6:7).
- 3) So as Christians we _____ our _____ through diligent labor (1 Ti. 5:8).
- 4) Against this backdrop we see the connection between _____ and _____.

II. The _____ of people and property.

- 1) In Israel kidnapping was a _____ offense (Ex. 21:16).
- 2) There is also a Biblical emphasis on _____ (Ex. 22:1).
- 3) It is not only _____ who steal! Governments often commit “_____.”
- 4) But do you steal _____? Time? Affection?

III. The _____ of a new way of life.

- 1) Eph. 4:28 lays before a thief a Christ-centered, _____ life.
- 2) Jesus guides his people to avoid amassing _____ here (Mt. 6:19-21).
- 3) Repent of _____ and theft. Strive for:
- 4) Keep your _____ traveling toward true joy (Col. 3:2-3).

Application Questions:

1. When did you face a direct temptation to steal? How did you respond?
2. Many heist movies are built around that “one last job.” Can thieves quit stealing?
3. The Word of God supplies a powerful alternative motivation (Eph. 4:32). What is it?
4. Consider Rom. 1:21 and 3:23. How do we rob God of what belongs to him?