

The Eighth Commandment

Duties Toward Others · The Ten Commandments

The eighth commandment protects property rights—the fruit of one's labor belongs to the laborer. Stealing encompasses not only outright theft but fraud, deception, failure to pay just wages, and unjust business practices. Positively, this commandment requires honest work, fair dealing, contentment with one's possessions, and generosity toward those in need. The thief must steal no more but labor honestly to have something to give to others.

Key Verses

Exodus 20:15

Thou shalt not steal.

Ephesians 4:28

Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

Leviticus 19:13

Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbour, neither rob him: the wages of him that is hired shall not abide with thee all night until the morning.

Proverbs 11:1

A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight.

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