

The Eighth Commandment: "You shall not steal" (Ex 20.15)

Reading aid: all the passages cited are written out in full in the Free Presbyterian Publication of the WCF

Introduction

As you look into the WLC on the 8th, do you see a major omission and its implications (texts *not* cited from both OT and NT signal this omission)? [*no mention of tithing or giving to support pastors*]

How do we get private property rights from the 8th by implication? [*the command makes no sense without the distinction between what belongs to me versus what belongs to you*]

141 What are the duties required in the eighth commandment? A. The duties required in the eighth commandment are, truth, faithfulness, and justice in contracts and commerce between man and man,(1) rendering to every one his due;(2) restitution of goods unlawfully detained from the right owners thereof;(3) giving and lending freely, according to our abilities, and the necessities of others;(4) moderation of our judgments, wills and affections concerning worldly goods;(5) a provident care and study to get,(6) keep, use, and dispose these things which are necessary and convenient for the sustentation of our nature, and suitable to our condition;(7) a lawful calling,(8) and diligence in it;(9) frugality,(10) avoiding unnecessary law-suits,(11) and suretiship [balance to lending freely], or other like engagements;(12) and an endeavour, by all just and lawful means, to procure, preserve, and further the wealth and outward estate of others, as well as our own.(13)

- (1)Ps. 15:2,4 [blameless if you do no evil to your neighbor]; Zech. 7:4,10[do not oppress widow & poor]; Zech. 8:16,17
- (2)Rom. 13:7 [pay all what is owed...tax...Balance this with *private* human ownership that is derivative not *ultimate*]
- (3)Lev. 6:2-5 with Luke 19:8 [Zacchaeus pays back what he stole and more]
- (4)Luke 6:30,38; 1 John 3:17; Eph. 4:28; Gal. 6:10 [do good to all, especially those of the household of faith]
- (5)1 Tim. 6:6,7,9 [gain in godliness with contentment; otherwise \$ = a snare & harm]; Gal. 6:14 [boast in the cross not the world]
- (6)1 Tim. 5:8 [provide for family or deny the faith]
- (7)Prov. 27:23; Eccl. 2:24; Eccl. 3:12; 1 Tim. 6:17,18 [be rich in good works & share]; Isa. 38:1; Matt. 11:8 [John's attire]
- (8)1 Cor. 7:20 [status quo]; Gen. 2:15 [keep the garden]; Gen. 3:19 [by sweaty work]
- (9)Eph. 4:28 [What is the antithesis of theft?]; Prov. 10:4 [slack...causes poverty]
- (10)John 6:12 [why gather up the leftover fragments of bread that nothing be lost? Is this the best reading?]; Prov. 21:20
- (11)1 Cor. 6:1-9 [there are wrong lawsuits]
- (12)Prov. 6:1-6 [go to the ant O sluggard to learn wisdom]; Prov. 11:15
- (13)Lev. 25:35; Deut. 22:1-4; Exod. 23:4,5; Gen. 47:14,20; Phil. 2:4 [look on the interests of self *and* others]; Matt. 22:39

142 What are the sins forbidden in the eighth commandment? A. The sins forbidden in the eighth commandment, besides the neglect of the duties required,(1) are, theft,(2) robbery,(3) manstealing,(4) and receiving any thing that is stolen;(5) fraudulent dealing,(6) false weights and measures,(7) removing land-marks,(8) injustice and unfaithfulness in contracts between man and man,(9) or in matters of trust;(10) oppression,(11) extortion,(12) usury,(13) bribery,(14) vexatious lawsuits,(15) unjust inclosures and depopulations;(16) ingrossing commodities to enhance the price;(17) unlawful callings,(18) and all other unjust or sinful ways of taking or withholding from our neighbour what belongs to him, or of enriching ourselves;(19) covetousness;(20) inordinate prizing and affecting worldly goods;(21) distrustful and distracting cares and studies in getting, keeping, and using them;(22) envying at the prosperity of others;(23) as likewise idleness,(24) prodigality, wasteful gaming; and all other ways whereby we do unduly prejudice our own outward estate,(25) and defrauding ourselves of the due use and comfort of that estate which God hath given us.(26)

- (1)James 2:15,16; 1 John 3:17
- (2)Eph. 4:28
- (3)Ps. 62:10
- (4)1 Tim. 1:10
- (5)Prov. 29:24; Ps. 1:18
- (6)1 Thess. 4:6
- (7)Prov. 11:1; Prov. 20:10
- (8)Deut. 19:14; Prov. 23:10
- (9)Amos 8:5; Ps. 37:21
- (10)Luke 16:10-12
- (11)Ezek. 22:29; Lev. 25:17
- (12)Matt. 23:25; Ezek. 22:12
- (13)Ps. 15:5 [Blameless if you do not take interest on loans; cf. Luther versus Calvin on this point next week]
- (14)Job 15:34
- (15)1 Cor. 6:6-8; Prov. 3:29 ,30
- (16)Isa. 5:8; Micah 2:2
- (17)Prov. 11:26
- (18)Acts 19:19 ,24,25
- (19)Job 20:19; James 5:4; Prov. 21:6
- (20)Luke 12:15
- (21)1 Tim. 6:5; Col. 3:2; Prov. 23:5; Ps. 62:10
- (22)Matt. 6:25,31,34; Eccl. 5:12

(23)Ps. 73:3; Ps. 37:1,7

(24)2 Thess. 3:11 ; Prov. 18:9

(25)Prov. 21:17,21; Prov. 28:19

(26)Eccl. 4:8; Eccl. 6:2; 1 Tim. 5:8