

8TH COMMANDMENT

Questions for further study

What is Stealing?

EXODUS 20:15: "You shall not steal."

1. What would you consider to be the definition of stealing?
2. Is there an exception to the rule?
3. Can any one share what if felt having something taken from them? What was your emotional reaction? How did it make you feel?
4. List ways in which people can steal from others:
5. How could waste and negligence be forms of stealing?
6. What business practices are forms of stealing?
7. What are some consequences for stealing? What is the ultimate punishment? (Read I Corinthians 6:9-10 and comment.)
8. What is the Christian approach to borrowing? At what point would you consider this to be theft?
9. Can We Steal From God?
10. Michael Hornton says "Christians have received tremendous physical and spiritual gifts from God, and we should desire to give back to Him all that we have. When we withhold the things that are rightly His —our time and talents, our possessions and our finances, indeed our very lives—we are in effect stealing from Him." To you agree with this statement?
 11. Read MALACHI 3:8-9: 1
 12. What strikes you about this passage.
 13. How can we apply this passage to our lives?
 14. Read MATTHEW 15:19: 1. What is meant by the word "heart" in this verse?
 15. Explain how thefts begin in the "heart."
 16. Why do people steal?
17. What justifications have you heard people use for stealing?
18. Read EPHESIANS 4:28:
19. How can the 8th commandment be stated positively?
20. What reward is there for working hard and then giving part of your earnings to the needy? Have you ever done that? How did it make you feel?
21. What attitude should a Christian have toward acquiring anything?
22. Read 1 John 1:9. Where does God's grace enter all of this?

