**Ten Commandments Series August 15, 2021**

*The Eighth Commandment*

Exodus 20:15   
You shall not steal.

Stealing

* To take the property of another wrongfully and especially as a **habitual or regular practice** (Webster)
* Taking something that does not belong to you **without permission**  
  (Stuart)
* Includes **unintentional acts**
  + Exodus 22:5–6   
    5 If a man grazes his livestock in a field or vineyard and lets them stray and they graze in another man’s field, he must make restitution from the best of his own field or vineyard. 6 If a fire breaks out and spreads into thornbushes so that it burns shocks of grain or standing grain or the whole field, the one who started the fire must make restitution.
* Includes failing **to give 100%** effort while on the job with employer
  + Using “company time” for personal benefits
  + Using company resources for personal benefits
  + Doing work but at less than efficient pace which the employee could do
  + Stopping work early or starting late
* When companies **fail to pay** employees for a full day of work
  + Not paying wages and benefits that have been earned
* Forcing hard working employees to carry more load than employees who do not live up to the job requirements
* Companies do not disclose their full **income and expenses** to stock holders
* Price **gouging**
* Using material **without permission** or without citing the source
* God expects every person to work to support his or her **needs**
* God expects every person to work to **give to others in need**.
  + Ephesians 4:28 , “He who has been stealing must steal no longer, **but must work**, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have **something to share with those in need**.”
* Guard your motives in working hard – it can lead to **greed**
  + Luke 12:15, “Then he said to them, ‘Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.’”

**What does this mean for me?**

* Commit to work hard at **whatever you do**
  + 2 Thessalonians 3:10, “For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: ‘If a man will not work, he shall not eat.’”
* Maintain **integrity** in all your work
  + Proverbs 20:23, “Differing weights are an abomination to the Lord, and a false scale is not good.”
* Make **restitution** if you have taken something without permission
  + Luke 19:8, “But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, ‘Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.’”
* Do not allow your work to **become what you worship**
  + Proverbs 23:4-5, “4 Do not weary yourself to gain wealth, Cease from your consideration *of it.* 5 When you set your eyes on it, it is gone. For *wealth* certainly makes itself wings Like an eagle that flies *toward* the heavens.”
* Give generously **to those in need**
  + Proverbs 11:24-25, “One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.”
* Work to build those things which will have **eternal value and last forever** – (Matthew 6:19-21)

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* Taking something that does not belong to you **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** (Stuart)
* Includes **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
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  + Using “company time” for personal benefits
  + Using company resources for personal benefits
  + Doing work but at less than efficient pace which the employee could do
  + Stopping work early or starting late
* When companies **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** employees for a full day of work
  + Not paying wages and benefits that have been earned
* Forcing hard working employees to carry more load than employees who do not live up to the job requirements
* Companies do not disclose their full **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** to stock holders
* Price **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
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* God expects every person to work to support his or her **\_\_\_\_\_\_**
* God expects every person to work to **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
  + Ephesians 4:28 , “He who has been stealing must steal no longer, **but must work**, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have **something to share with those in need**.”
* Guard your motives in working hard – it can lead to **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
  + Luke 12:15, “Then he said to them, ‘Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.’”

**What does this mean for me?**

* Commit to work hard at **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
  + 2 Thessalonians 3:10, “For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: ‘If a man will not work, he shall not eat.’”
* Maintain **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** in all your work
  + Proverbs 20:23, “Differing weights are an abomination to the Lord, and a false scale is not good.”
* Make **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** if you have taken something without permission
  + Luke 19:8, “But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, ‘Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.’”
* Do not allow your work to **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
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* Give generously **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
  + Proverbs 11:24-25, “One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.”
* Work to build those things which will have **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** – (Matthew 6:19-21)
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