

#8 – You Shall Not Steal

Exodus 20:15; Deuteronomy 5:19

If Stealing Is Sinful . . .

- Not Stealing Shows Love
 - Joseph Fletcher (1905-1991) – Professor At Cambridge and Harvard – The Father Of Situation Ethics
 - He said there was one intrinsic good: LOVE
 - Cited Four Different Ways Of Justifying Stealing
 - Pragmatism – Answers the question of what is good? What is good is what works, what gives me satisfaction.
 - Relativism – All moral acts are relative in view of the ultimate good: Love.
 - Theological Positivism – what God wants – LOVE! vs. What God says!
 - Personalism – puts people at the center – not things. People are more important than things.

How Not Stealing Shows Love

- Romans 13:8-10 – “Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” **Love does no wrong to a neighbor;** therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.”

If Stealing Is Sinful . . .

- Not Stealing Promotes Work & Good Works
 - Ephesians 4:28 – “Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.”
 - There is nothing wrong with gain.
 - (Abraham had riches – Gen. 13:2)
 - (Job had riches – Job 42:12)
 - (Joseph Of Arimathea – Matthew 27:57)
 - Gain At Others Loss Is A Sin
 - Shoplifting; Tax Evasion; Return What Is Borrowed; Gambling



If Stealing Is Sinful . . .

- Not Stealing Wins Favor
 - Proverbs 13:15 “Good sense wins favor, but the way of the treacherous is their ruin.”
- Not Stealing Produces Honor
 - Romans 12:17 “Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.”