



Thinking Like a Christian 8<sup>th</sup> November 2020

## Eighth Commandment: You shall not steal

Ah! Of course. This is commandment which Adam & Eve broke in the Garden of Eden.

Genesis 3:1-6 Adam and his wife stole the fruit. Did they break any other of the Ten Commandments at the same time? Which ones?

Actually, Adam didn't steal the fruit. Is he innocent of breaking the eighth commandment?

### 1. All sin is stealing

God owns everything

Sin says to God: This thing, which you have not given to me, I take as my own.

Go through all of the Ten Commandments. How is each commandment a form of stealing?

- |             |                            |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Other    | 5. Honour                  |
| 2. Make     | 6. Murder                  |
| 3. Take     | 7. Commit                  |
| 4. Remember | 8. Steal (this one's easy) |
|             | 9. Bear                    |
|             | 10. Covet                  |

This commandment drives home that *all things belong to God; we live in his world, in which he owns everything.*

### 2. All stealing is sin

What is property? What does it mean to 'own' something?

A difficult question for atheists

But not for Christians

2 Samuel 12:1-9 David's theft

God owns everything

God entrusts things to us

So all sin steals from God; refusing to recognise that all things belong to him.

Stealing from others is refusing to accept that God has entrusted things to the right people.

The basis of ownership, property, and justice in relation to both.

What does this mean for our attitude to...

Taking biros from the office?

Slavery?

Should Christians get jobs?

Gambling?

My own possessions?

Giving money away?

Plagiarism?

### 3. Thieves and heirs

Romans 8:16-17      What is great about being a child of God?

Why is Jesus the heir of God?

Because he is the Son

Philippians 2:6-11 Because he did not grasp at equality with God

Ephesians 8:28      Why is the gospel good news for thieves?

What do Christians have to be willing to give up? (Romans 8:17)

What happens when we do? (Matthew 19:29)

The gospel challenges our attitude to ownership

And requires us to see our possessions entirely as entrusted to us.

*I've given away 10% of my salary, so the rest is mine to do what I want with.*

*It's only a few sheets, no-one will mind.*

*We should raise taxes on the rich to help out the poor.*

*We should slash taxes so people can keep what they've earned for themselves.*

*I don't see why I should get a job next year.*

*\*Looks at lottery tickets for sale\*. It could be me!*

*It's my life, I can do with it what I like.*