

Title: Off Limits

Text: Exodus 20:15: *"You shall not steal"*

Target: To Love God requires us to Love People, and to steal from people is not only an offense to people, but also an offense towards God. Thus, this commandment makes the TOP 10.

I. Clarification in this Command:

- A. **Perspective on Personal Property:** *"The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein,"* Psalm 24:1
 - 1. **Ownership:** Everything Belongs to God
 - 2. **Stewardship:** Everything is Entrusted by God
- B. **Principle of Personal Property:** *"For I the Lord love justice; I hate robbery and wrong."* Isaiah 61:8
 - 1. **Taking:** Assuming something that belongs to someone else.
 - 2. **Keeping:** Withholding something that belongs to someone else.

II. Consideration in this Command:

- A. **Confiscate what is not yours:**
 - 1. **Supplies from Work:** Titus 2:9-10
 - 2. **Schedule at Work:** (employer and employee) James 5:4
 - 3. **Subsidy not to Work:** 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12
- B. **Consume as if it is yours:** Leviticus 19:11, Malachi 3:8
- C. **Connive to make it yours:**
 - 1. **Extortion:** Leviticus 19:13
 - 2. **Exploitation:** Proverbs 11:1
 - 3. **Evasion:** Mark 12:17
- D. **Cheat to say it is yours:**
 - 1. **Plagiarism:** Ephesians 4:28
 - 2. **Piracy:** Jeremiah 23:30
 - 3. **Personalizing:** Romans 2:21

III. Conviction in this Command:

- A. **Demands that we live with Personal Character:**
 - 1. **Stealing is Dishonest:** Proverbs 11:3
 - 2. **Stealing is Deceptive:** John 12:4-6
 - 3. **Stealing is Demonic:** John 10:10
- B. **Demands that we live in Purposeful Consideration:** Galatians 5:14
 - 1. **Give Consideration:** *"Do nothing from selfish ambition."* Philippians 2:3
 - 2. **Get Consent:** *"Count others more significant than ourselves."* Philippians 2:3
 - 3. **Give Credit:** *"look not only to his own interests."* Philippians 2:4

IV. Calling in this Command: *"Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold."* Luke 19:8

- A. **Responsibility to Restore:** Demonstrate Humility
- B. **Requirement to Release:** Demonstrate Generosity
 - 1. **Test God on His Promises:** Malachi 3:8
 - 2. **Trust God for your Provision:** Philippians 4:19
 - a) **Time:** Matthew 6:33
 - b) **Talent:** Matthew 25:29
 - c) **Treasure:** Matthew 6:21

Take Away: When we choose to steal from others, we are really robbing ourselves from seeing the miraculous hand of God meet our own needs!