

THE 10



In the
Grip of
Greed



Recap

You must not commit adultery Exodus 20:14

Commandment in three implications

personal

protective

spiritual



Recap

You have heard the commandment that says, 'You must not commit adultery.' But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with **lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. **Matthew 5:27-28****

According to Jesus, even single people can commit the **root sin of adultery**

A detailed look into God's law demonstrates **the protections God provides for women. These include provisions prior to marriage, during the marriage, and upon the death of her husband. **Andrea G. Schwartz****



Recap

Therefore, go and give this message to Israel. This is what the Lord says: “O Israel, my **faithless people, come home to me again, for I am merciful.** I will not be angry with you forever. Only acknowledge your guilt. Admit that you rebelled against the Lord your God and **committed adultery against him** by worshiping idols under every green tree. Confess that you refused to listen to my voice. I, the Lord, have spoken! **Jeremiah 3:12-13**

If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful, **for he cannot deny who he is.** **2 Timothy 2:13**



Greed: The Ultimate Addiction, Leon F Seltzer Ph.D.

What connects the various addictions is that **enough is never enough—not for long anyway. As addicts progress (or rather, regress) into their addiction, to derive sufficient gratification they must constantly seek more and more of their drug of choice.**

For “more**” is the keyword of addiction. It doesn’t matter whether they’re addicted to a substance, relationship, or activity—the “ante” for getting enough of the object of their craving must continually be raised.**

But of all the things one might be addicted to, nothing tops the greed-laden **pursuit of wealth in its audacity, manipulativeness, and gross insensitivity to the needs and feelings of others.**



You must not steal. Exodus 20:15

**The commandment doesn't
clarify from whom or what**



In a Barna survey taken several years ago, 86% of adults claimed they are **completely satisfying God's requirement regarding abstinence from stealing. "Look, I don't break into people's homes and I don't shoplift," we think to ourselves. "Here's a commandment I can feel good about."**

Any study of the origins of greed needs to begin with the **individual. Interestingly, however, psychologists have been largely silent on the topic. Diane Coutu, Harvard Business Review**

greed has become an abstraction,
something external, someone else



Commandment in Three Parts

Ownership

Provision

Stewardship



Ownership

Include all this **territory** as Israel's possession... **Joshua 13:7**

Joshua 13-17 details the land distribution to the eleven tribes. Only the **levites** were not given land

The land must never be sold on a **permanent** basis, for the land belongs to me. You are only foreigners and tenant farmers working for me. **Leviticus 25:23**



Ownership

On deeper reflection, however, we will discover that this commandment provides the necessary **foundation for all human flourishing on the face of the earth. Governments and cultural traditions violate the Eighth Commandment at their peril, for wherever this commandment is ignored, entire nations remain trapped in poverty forever. When that happens, they tragically fail to achieve many of God's purposes for them on the earth. **Wayne Grudem****

we take the commandments for granted. Everyone believes these things to be universal. Yet a careful study of cultures throughout history will show how unique these commandments were



Ownership

Therefore, the Eighth Commandment is unique. It protects **property and possessions**. By implication, we are also right to think it **protects another person's time and talents and opportunities**—everything over which people have been given stewardship. **Wayne Grudem**

The Israelites had the incredible luxury of being told how to build a **just society** before settling in a new place. The rationality and fairness of **land distribution** in Parashat Pinchas is remarkable and very different from the norms of land ownership currently present around the globe. **Sarah Margles**



Ownership

And the Lord said to Aaron, “You priests will receive no allotment of land or share of property among the people of Israel. **I am your share and your allotment. As for the tribe of Levi, your relatives, I will compensate them for their service in the Tabernacle. Instead of an allotment of land, I will give them the tithes from the entire land of Israel.”** Numbers 18:20-21



Provision

In the Old Testament, wealth is a form of honour and is something desirous. There's nothing inherently wrong with working and producing wealth from your work. In fact, it is a virtue to be pursued. At the same time, it's not an end in-and-of itself. You can think of it along the lines of the Abrahamic narrative. In Genesis 12, God says, 'I will bless you, and you will be a blessing.' Dr. Jones

and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you. Genesis 12:3

Ownership for ownership sake corrupts the owner



Provision

Do not take **advantage** of a widow or an orphan.

Exodus 22:22

Do not **deny** justice to your poor people in their lawsuits. **Exodus 23:6**

Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. **Leave them** for the poor and the alien. I am the LORD your God. **Leviticus 19:10**

Do not **pervert** justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favouritism to the great, but judge your neighbour fairly. **Leviticus 19:15**

He **defends** the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing. **Deuteronomy 10:18**



Provision

In the Bible, the Israelites were commanded to allow the poor to follow behind reapers and pick up leftover spears of grain and fallen grapes. In this way, the Law of Moses provided food for the poor, orphans, widows, and resident aliens. The law specified that land owners must leave some of the harvest for gleaners (Ruth)

“When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the LORD your God” Leviticus 19:9–10.



Stealing in Three Parts: Greed

Greed is the root sin of theft

Those who love money will never have enough. How meaningless to think that wealth brings true happiness! The more you have, the more people come to help you spend it. So what good is wealth—except perhaps to watch it slip through your fingers! **Ecclesiastes 5:10-11**



Stealing in Three Parts: Callousness

The wicked **arrogantly** hunt down the poor. Let them be caught in the evil they plan for others. For they brag about their evil desires; they praise the greedy and curse the Lord. **Psalms 10:2-3**

There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be **openhanded** toward your fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land. **Deuteronomy 15:11**



Stealing in Three Parts: Spiritual Vacuum

You hoped for rich harvests, but they were poor. And when you brought your harvest home, I blew it away.

Why? Because my house lies in ruins, says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, while all of you are busy building your own fine houses. [Haggai 1:10](#)

“Should people **cheat God? Yet you have cheated me!**

“But you ask, ‘What do you mean? When did we ever cheat you?’ [Malachi 3:8](#)

You have said, ‘What's the use of serving God?** What have we **gained** by obeying his commands or by trying to show the Lord of Heaven's Armies that we are sorry for our sins? From now on we will call the arrogant blessed. For those who do evil get rich, and those who dare God to punish them suffer no harm. [vs 14-15](#)**



Theft in Three Parts: Spiritual Vacuum

“The creature without Christ is an empty thing, a lamp without oil, a bone without marrow. But when Christ is present our cup runs over, and we eat bread to the full.” Charles Spurgeon



Stewardship

A steward is someone who handles affairs for someone else. In ancient kingdoms, **stewards ran the country in the absence of the king**. Upon the king's return, the steward gave a full accounting for his actions. Even when the king was present, the steward often handled the daily affairs of the kingdom. However, **a steward did not own the kingdom**. And, the king determined when and how long a steward would serve him.

... a way of living that involves one's daily activities, values and goals for life, and the use of **all possessions**. It begins with God and His plans for creation and purposes for humankind. The steward is God's responsible representative and **manager** of all creation.
Disciple's Study Bible, stewardship definition



Stewardship

The land must never be sold on a **permanent** basis, for the land belongs to me. You are only foreigners and tenant farmers working for me. **Leviticus 25:23**

Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, **is given you by God.** If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service, you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already.

C. S. Lewis, Mere Christianity



Stewardship

Living as a steward means surrendering your lives (time treasure and talents) to God and recognizing yourself as a **manager, not owner**, of all you have. It is a part of our identity, not just our **behaviour**.

Ownership-Faithful Servant, grow what God has given you

Provision-Generous Servant, remember those in need

Stewardship-Accountable Servant, everything belongs to God



The opposite of the love of money is generosity. Instead of hoarding our money, we hand it over. Instead of building bigger barns, we nurture bigger hearts. Instead of looking to take, we seek to give. We who have been given everything—life, food, family, freedom, new birth, forgiveness, redemption, the Holy Spirit, the promise of an unimaginable inheritance—surely ought to give something **Kevin DeYoung**

**A faith that costs you nothing
requires nothing of you**



O God, I beg two favours from you; let me have them before I die. First, help me never to tell a lie. Second, give me **neither poverty nor riches! Give me just enough to satisfy my needs. For if I grow rich, I may deny you and say, “Who is the Lord?” And if I am too poor, I may steal and thus insult God’s holy name. Never slander a worker to the employer, or the person will curse you, and you will pay for it. **Proverbs 30:7-10****

