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Section: Commands (Law)

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**HANDOUT NOTES**

**Q52. Why does God give the eighth commandment: You shall not steal?**

So we will be content with what we have and seek to be generous.

**Philippians 2:3-4**Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

* **Prohibitions**

**Heidelberg Catechism:**

Q. 110. What does God forbid in the eighth commandment?

He forbids not only outright theft and robbery, punishable by law. But in God’s sight theft also includes cheating and swindling our neighbor by schemes made to appear legitimate, such as: inaccurate measurements of weight, size, or volume; fraudulent merchandising; counterfeit money; excessive interest; or any other means forbidden by God. In addition he forbids all greed and pointless squandering of his gifts.

* **Selling defective goods**
* **False insurance claims**
* **“Sticking it to the man”**
* **Cheating our employer**
* **Cheating our employees**
* **Cheating the Government**
* **Pirated movies**
* **Requirements**
  + **We are to be generous**

**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.

**John 3:16** “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

**Matthew 20:28** . . . the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

**Matthew 10:8b** You received without paying; give without pay.

**1 Corinthians 4:7** . . . What do you have that you did not receive? . . .

**2 Corinthians 8:1-5** We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.

* **Be a good steward**
* **Our gifts and abilities**

**Matthew 25:30**And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

* **Give what we owe**

**Malachi 3:8-10** Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In your tithes and contributions. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

**Romans 13:7** Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

**James 5:12**But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.

* **We are to work hard and provide for ourselves and our families**

**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.

**1 Thessalonians 4:9-12** Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more, and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.

**II Thessalonians 3:6-12**Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

* **Live within our means**
* **Providing the basic necessities, food, shelter, clothing**
* **Paying my debts. If I have made a commitment (foolish or not) I am to honor that commitment**
* **Being prudent with my discretionary spending so that I do not become enslaved to debt**

**Proverbs 22:7** The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender.

* **Wisely preparing something for the future.**

**Proverbs 13:22** A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, but the sinner's wealth is laid up for the righteous.

* **Having a Budget**
* **It Is More Blessed to Give Than to Receive**

**Acts 20:34-35**You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

**Romans 13:7-10** Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For 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.