

LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM

The Seventh Commandment



by

Thomas F. Fischer



1892 E. Auburn Road
Rochester Hills, MI 48307
(248) 852-5510 GLCRH.org

The Seventh Commandment

“You shall not steal.”

What does this mean?

“We should fear, love, and trust in God so that we do not take our neighbor’s money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possession and income.”

I The Seventh Commandment

A. What Is “stealing”?

“Stealing” is anything we do to get something that is not _____ (rous)

B. What are some ways that we steal?

1. _____ -ing (ktea) or robbing something
2. _____ -ing something without returning it (rborowing)
3. _____ -ing or damaging something without paying for it (rkeabing)
4. Short- _____ -ing someone (ngecha)
5. Not _____ -ing our debts promptly (peyra)

C. Other ways we steal...

1. _____(ribreyb):
2. Ex-_____ -tion (ortt):
3. _____ -ening (htreat)
4. _____ -ly (ecrets)
5. _____ -son (ra)
6. _____ (raudf)
7. Usury
8. Others:

D. From Whom Do We Steal?

1. _____ (eoplep)

2. _____ (odg)

"Will a man rob God? Yet you rob Me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob You?' "In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—the whole nation of you—because you are robbing Me." Malachi 3:8-9 (NIV)

3. How do we rob God?

a. _____ (imet)

b. _____ (alengt)

c. _____ (reasuret)

II Christian Stewardship

A. The Word "Stewardship" Means:

1. "Steward": The keeper of the _____ (spgi)

B. The "Steward" is called to _____ (angema) someone else's possessions.

C. Two types of stewards: Matthew 25:21 ff.

1. _____-ful (ifath):

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' Matthew 25:21 (NIV)

2. _____-ful (fiunath)

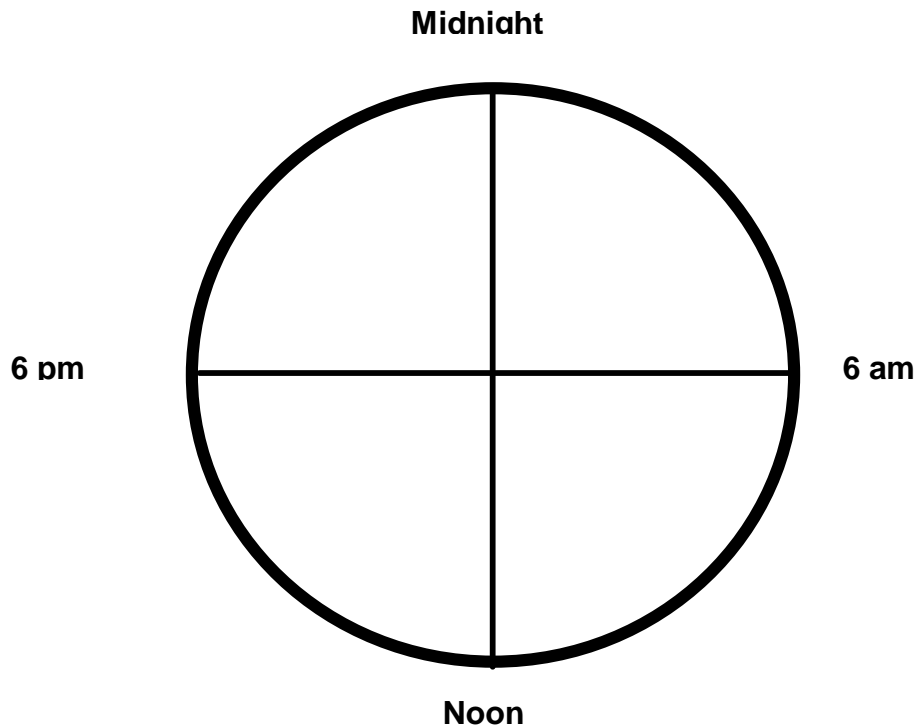
“You wicked, lazy servant!... ”Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’
Matthew 25:28-30 (NIV)

III Christian Stewardship: Key Questions God Asks You

A. How do you manage God’s _____ (dyob)?

“You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.”
I Corinthians 6:19-20 (NIV)

B. How do you manage God’s _____ (etim)?



C. How do you manage God's _____ (onmey)?

Do The Math: Examining Your Giving To God	
Total Allowance God Gives You To Manage	\$
- God's Share For His Use	\$
Total Remaining For Your Use	\$

How are you doing with the Seventh Commandment in your giving to God?

D. How To Give: An Examination of II Corinthians 8:1ff. (NIV)

Vs. 1 “And now, brothers, we want you to know about the **grace** that God has given the Macedonian [i.e. Greek] churches.”

We give only in response to God's _____ (egrac)

Vs. 2 “Out of the most severe trial, their **overflowing joy** and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.”

Whenever we give, we do it from a sense of _____-flowing joy (reov)

Vs. 3 “For I testify that they **gave as much as they were able**, and *even beyond their ability.*”

Whenever we give, we are to give ...

** as _____ as we can (uchm)*

** beyond our _____ (ilityba); and*

** entirely on our _____ (onw)*

Vs. 4 “**Entirely on their own**, they **urgently pleaded** with us for the **privilege** of sharing in this service to the saints.”

*Christians consider giving a _____ (ivlegepriv). Thus, Christians
_____ to participate (leadp)in generous giving.*

Vs. 5 “And they did not do as we expected, **but they gave themselves first to the Lord** and then to us in keeping with God's will.”

*Before giving money or any gift, the faithful Christian steward must
give themselves to God _____ (rifst)*

Vs. 6 “So we urged Titus, since he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this **act of grace** on your part.”

*Our giving is an act of _____ (egrac), that is our highest gift of
_____ (ovel) and thanksgiving to God.*

Vs. 7 “But just as you excel in everything-- in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us--see that you also **excel in this grace of giving.**”

*Christians are called to excel in everything, including
_____ (ivingg)*

Vs. 8 “I am **not commanding** you, but I want to **test the sincerity of your love** by comparing it with the earnestness of others.”

*True giving is not done because of _____-sion (ompulc) or guilt.
Instead, our giving is one of the truest gauges of our love for God
and others.*

Vs. 9 “For you know the **grace of our Lord Jesus Christ**, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.”

All our giving is merely a wholehearted response to Jesus’

_____ for us. (love)

E. God’s promise to those who give sacrificially

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out **so much blessing** that you will not have room enough for it.” Malachi 3:8-10 (NIV)

F. Other Blessings

1. “Don’t give till it hurts. Give until it feels real good!”

Anonymous

2. “God loves a hilarious giver!”

II Corinthians 9:7

3. “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. ***For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.***” Jesus in Luke 6:38 (NIV)

IV How To Keep The Seventh Commandment

A. Don’t steal from _____ (odg)

B. Don’t steal from _____(eighnbor)

C. Be _____-full (leph) to others.

D. Help _____ (protect) other's possessions from thievery, damage and other kinds of loss.

For Reflection:

1) Why do people steal from God?

2) What is the most important reason to give time, talents and money to God?

3) In what ways are we stealing from others now?

Study Guide: “The Seventh Commandment”

Part I: True Or False. *The Seventh Commandment.* Place a “T” (*True*) or “F” (*False*) before each question below.

- ___ 1. We are stealing from our parents when we are not thankful to them for giving us food and shelter and refuse to do our chores.
- ___ 2. “Stealing” includes both damaging other’s possessions as well as taking them.
- ___ 3. Before God the sin of bribery is worse than the sin of extortion.
- ___ 4. The word “steward” comes from a French word for a sailor on a boat.
- ___ 5. The best attitude to have when giving our offering is joyful cheerfulness.
- ___ 6. God only wants 10% of our money. The rest is ours.

Part II: Multiple Choice. Write the letter of the correct answer before each question below.

- ___ 7. The best reason we should give to God is....
 - a. to show that He is first in our lives
 - b. we’re afraid of what others will say
 - c. our parents make us
 - d. to avoid going to hell.
- ___ 8. Which of the following is *not* a kind of stealing?
 - a. sitting around on the job
 - b. not giving a cashier back an excess change
 - c. giving only a small amount to God
 - d. All of the above are forms of stealing.
- ___ 9. The best way to keep the Seventh Commandment is...
 - a. Protect others’ property
 - b. Give generously to God
 - c. Don’t be dishonest with your money
 - d. Do everything to protect others’ property
 - e. All of the above.
- ___ 10. Read Acts 5:1-12. Why did Annanias and Sapphira die?
 - a. Because they ate the wrong food.
 - b. Because they stole from God.
 - C. Because God rewarded their generosity.
 - D. Because they were persecuted for preaching the Gospel.