

You must not steal.

We're talking about family values and maintaining healthy relationships.

This morning we are looking at the 8th command.

Exodus 20:15

If you want to have and maintain healthy family values and relationships,
then don't steal; don't rob one another; DON'T TAKE what doesn't belong to you.

Obviously this covers outright theft.

But this also involves things like

stealing someone's honor through lies, stealing someone's joy through gossip.

stealing someone's self-worth through bullying.

Stealing of any kind damages a person's integrity and their relationships.

Ephesians 4 gives numerous practical suggestions on maintaining healthy relationships.

One of those suggestions is found in verse 28.

Ephesians 4:28

Instead of stealing, we are called upon to work,

to do something useful with our own hands,

so that we have something to give to our relationships, not take from them.

There isn't any free lunch.

This is true in the home.

This is true in the community.

This is true in the church.

This is true in the nation.

If we want healthy relationships in our homes, church, community, and nation,

We must learn to work, so we can **GIVE TO THOSE IN NEED,**

Ephesians 4:28

The opposite of taking is giving. - The opposite of stealing is sharing.

That's the spirit of the 8th commandment: **Don't take; give!**

Does that remind you of God?

He watched His own Son suffer and die on a cross because of OUR sin.

He gave so that WE could be in relationship with Him through faith in His Son.

Please, let's learn something about compassion today through God's indescribable gift.

Even those of us who have stolen from him.

I. THE MATTER OF LORDSHIP.

We are guilty of stealing when we hold back areas of our lives from the Lord.

II. THE MATTER OF TALENTS.

When we are saved, we are given (Spiritual Gifts) from the Heavenly Father.

1 Corinthians 12:7

* When we fail to exercise our God given gifts and talents,
we are guilty of stealing from the Lord.

* When we fail to fill our place in His body, we are thieves and robbers.

* Our lives are gifts, and they are to be invested for the glory of God.

Let's learn something about compassion today and **actively start giving**
so we can enjoy God's healing in all our relationships.