

YOUTH INSTRUCTION CLASS

LESSON 17: THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

Introduction

Write out the seventh commandment that God gave to His people (Exodus 20:15). What is God protecting by the seventh commandment?

The Owner Of Property

Who is the real owner of *all* property?

Psalm 24:1 (324)

- All earthly things belong to God. He distributes them among people. To some He gives more, to others less. We say that people "own" things, and that is true for practical purposes. In reality, however, God owns everything. We are only the *caretakers* or *stewards* (managers) of God's possessions.
- What is the job of a *caretaker*? What do you think your jobs might be as caretakers of *God's* things?
- Acts 2:44 describes a situation in which people voluntarily owned things jointly. Sometimes this is also known as communism. Although there was this voluntary communism in the Jerusalem church, the Christians kept the right to own property if they so desired (Acts 5:4). The theory of pure communism is generally unworkable in a sinful world because people are by nature selfish and not inclined to sharing.



God Gives Us Our Possessions

There are many different ways that God can give us the things we own. Some are:

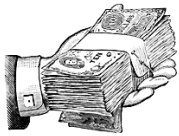
Matthew 2:1-12 (331)

1 Kings 21:3 (332)

Genesis 23:8-9	(327)	_____
Genesis 25:28-34		_____
Psalms 128:2	(329)	_____
Matthew 25:27		_____

Using What God Gives Us

How does God want us to use (manage) the things He gives us?



1 Timothy 5:8 (336) _____

Romans 13:6-7 (339) _____



Mark 12:41-44

1 Corinthians 16:2 (335) _____

1 John 3:17 (337) _____

- When it comes to giving for the work of the Lord, the Bible tells us: 1) Give regularly (1 Corinthians 16:2), and 2) Give according to the blessings God has given you (Deuteronomy 15:14). Those who have more will be able to give more to God's work. Those who have less will be able to give less. With these two principles in mind, how could you decide how much to put in the offering plate every week at church?



- We can think of ourselves as *distribution centers* for God's blessings. He provides us with gifts and we use those gifts appropriately.

Attitudes Toward Our Property

With what attitudes should we handle the things we own?

Proverbs 16:8 _____

Ephesians 4:28 (340) _____

Luke 16:1-2 _____

Psalms 37:21 (341) _____

Exodus 23:4

Hebrews 13:5 (383)

1 Timothy 6:6, 8 (384)

Psalms 100:4

- Therefore we obey the seventh commandment by: 1) Being good managers of the gifts God has given us to own, and 2) Helping our neighbor protect and keep what he owns.

Disobeying This Commandment

This commandment can be disobeyed in many ways, some of which are:

- A. Robbery
- B. Theft
- C. False goods and dealing
- D. Failing to repay debt
- E. Charging excessive interest
- F. Paying unfair wages
- G. Loafing on the job
- H. Gambling
- I. Greed and discontent

___ Pr 18:9 ___ Pr 28:8 ___ Jn 12:6 ___ Ps 37:21 ___ Pr 11:1 ___ 1 Cor 10:24

___ Lk 10:30 ___ Jer 22:13 ___ Heb 13:5

- Look at the list on p. 80 of your catechism.
- Luther's *Large Catechism*: "A person steals not only when he robs a man's strongbox or his pocket, but also when he takes advantage of his neighbor at the market, in a grocery shop . . . and wherever business is transacted and money is exchanged for good and labor . . . Suppose, for example, that a servant is unfaithful in his duty and does damage or permits damage to happen when it could have been avoided. Or suppose that through laziness, carelessness, or malice a servant wastes and neglects things . . . When this is done deliberately . . . a servant can cheat his employer."
- We have sinned against this commandment in thought, word, and action.
- Who kept this commandment perfectly for us?

Activities and Thought Questions

1. What is a steward?
2. Suppose God gave you \$1000 to use in one week. Come up with a plan for distributing God's money over the course of that week.
3. Name some of the different ways a person can steal from someone else.
4. What is the proper thing to do if we have stolen something?
5. How much does God require that we give to the church?

Assignment

- Bible Reading Schedule 14 from the book of Luke (Mon-Fri)
- Memorize the Seventh Commandment with Explanation (p. 78)