



You Shall Not Steal

Exodus 20:15

(cf. Deuteronomy 5:19)

Encompasses the Others

- **Murder**—the stealing of another person's life.
- **Adultery**—the stealing of another person's spouse.
- **False witness**—the stealing of another person's reputation.
- **Coveting**—the desire to steal what belongs to another person.
- **Related to God & Idols**—Stealing the honor and glory he alone deserves.

"You Shall Not Steal"



Crime in America

- **All Crime** — \$603 billion
- **Burglary** — \$ 4 billion
- **Shoplifting** — \$ 13 billion
- **Fraud** — \$300 billion

“You Shall Not Steal”



Why People Steal

Might be several reasons on the surface.



Why People Steal

- Self-preservation

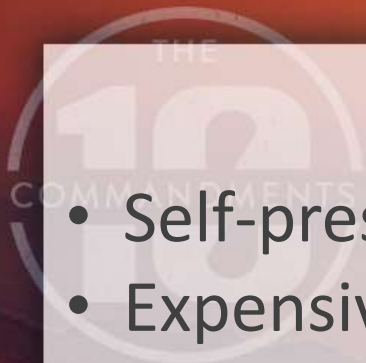
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Why People Steal

- Self-preservation
- **Expensive drug habits**

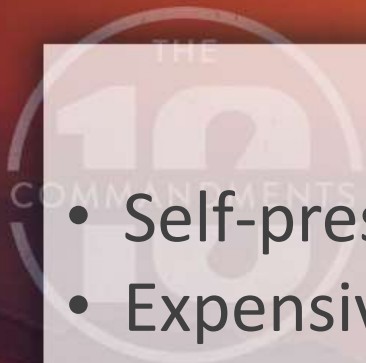
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Why People Steal

- Self-preservation
- Expensive drug habits
- **Accumulation of debt**

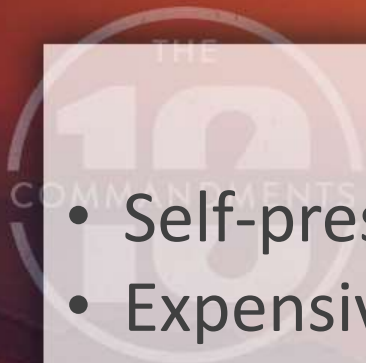
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Why People Steal

- Self-preservation
- Expensive drug habits
- Accumulation of debt
- **Excitement**

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Why People Steal

- Self-preservation
- Expensive drug habits
- Accumulation of debt
- Excitement
- **All steal to get something they don't have (or feel they don't have enough)**

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People Who Steal ...

- Rationalize by blaming their victim
- Justify by de-personalizing their victim

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Spiritual Deficiency

- “He sees the things the Lord has given him, shakes his fist at the Almighty, and says, ‘This is not enough. I deserve more, and if you will not provide it for me, then I’ll just take it myself.’”

—Rick Atchley



Ways People Steal

We usually think of stealing simply in terms of taking material things from others.



Ways People Steal

- By stealing physical property

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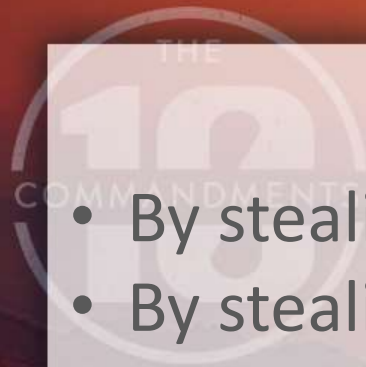
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Ways People Steal

- By stealing physical property
- **By stealing ideas**

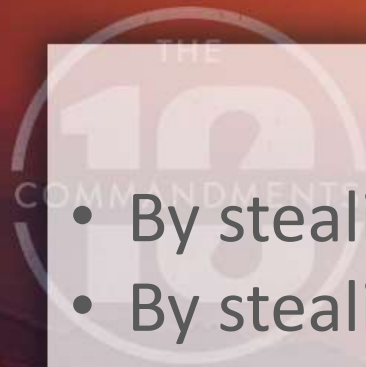
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Ways People Steal

- By stealing physical property
- By stealing ideas
- **By not paying debts**

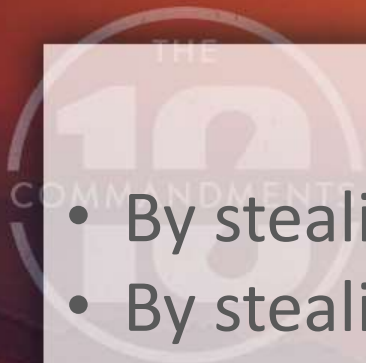
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Ways People Steal

- By stealing physical property
- By stealing ideas
- By not paying debts
- **By scheming**

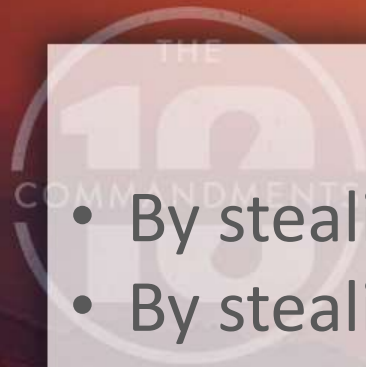
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Ways People Steal

- By stealing physical property
- By stealing ideas
- By not paying debts
- By scheming
- **By stealing time**

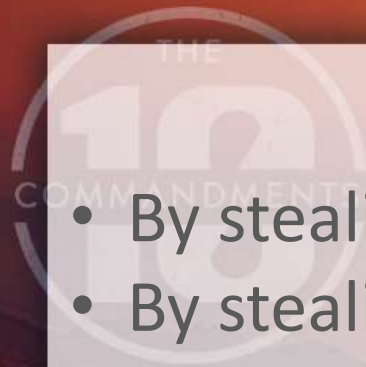
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Ways People Steal

- By stealing physical property
- By stealing ideas
- By not paying debts
- By scheming
- By stealing time
- **By not sharing**

"You Shall Not Steal"



Ways People Steal

- By stealing physical property
- By stealing ideas
- By not paying debts
- By scheming
- By stealing time
- By not sharing
- **By robbing God**

"You Shall Not Steal"

Three Principles Before You Buy

- Have you filled your commitment to God?
- Can you afford it?
- Will you own it, or will it own you?

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Ways to Avoid Stealing

Changing your heart about your
possessions.

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Ways to Avoid Stealing

- Cultivate a thankful spirit

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Matthew Henry

- “Let me be thankful, first, because I was never robbed before. Second, because, although they took my wallet, they did not take my life. Third, because, although they took my all, it was not much. And, fourth, because it was I who was robbed, and not I who robbed.”

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Ways to Avoid Stealing

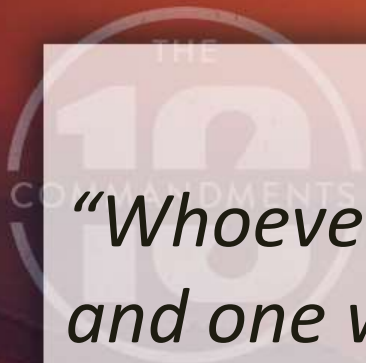
- Cultivate a thankful spirit
- **View what you own as belonging to God**

“You Shall Not Steal”

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.”

(ESV)



Proverbs 11:25

*“Whoever brings blessing will be enriched,
and one who waters will himself be
watered.”* (ESV)

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Ways to Avoid Stealing

- Cultivate a thankful spirit
- View what you own as belonging to God
- **Trust God**

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10 COMMANDMENTS

Ways to Avoid Stealing

- Cultivate a thankful spirit
- View what you own as belonging to God
- Trust God
- **Keep things in perspective**

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Matthew 6:19-21

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (ESV)

“You Shall Not Steal”



You Shall Not Steal

“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” (Mt 6:33).