Sunday, November 1, 2020

Respecting a Personal Boundary

Exodus 20:15

David H. McKinley

• • •

"We as Bible-believing Christians are locked in a battle. This is not a friendly gentleman's discussion. It is a life and death conflict between spiritual hosts of wickedness and those who claim the name of Christ. Where is the clear voice speaking to the crucial issues of the day with distinctively biblical answers?"
—Francis Schaffer

You shall not steal. —Exodus 20:15

1. The Assumptions

• The legitimate ownership of property.

• The responsible acquisition of property.

[8]Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. [9]Six days you shall labor, and do all your work. —Exodus 20:8-9

[11]Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits lacks sense… [14]From the fruit of his mouth a man is satisfied with good, and the work of a man's hand comes back to him. —Proverbs 12:11, 14

2. The Applications

"The principle is absolutely necessary for the functioning of society. To steal from another person is to destroy the societal trust, which is an absolute requisite for a stable economy and stable commerce. Without such trust, there can be no confidence that our neighbors will refrain from stealing our stuff, robbing us not only of our possessions and property, but of our dignity." —Dr. Albert Mohler

• God intends the family to teach respect and responsibility for property.

… [12]then take care lest you forget the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery… [23]And He brought us out from there, that He might bring us in and give us the land that He swore to give to our fathers.
—Deuteronomy 6:12, 23

[10]For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. [11]For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. [12]Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. —2 Thessalonians 3:10-12

Notes:

• God warns against robbing Him.

[8]Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me. But you say, "How have we robbed You?" In your tithes and contributions. [9]You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you. [10]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. —Malachi 3:8-10

Give 10% Save 10% Live 80%

[9]Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; [10]then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. —Proverbs 3:9-10

• God directs us to pay taxes.

They said, "Caesar's." Then He said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." —Matthew 22:21

"Since the 8th commandment presupposes private ownership of property, it rejects systems of economics that deny that principle." —John Frame

Socialism: "any of various economic and political theories advocating collective or governmental ownership and administration of the means of production and distribution of goods"

- a system of society or group living in which there is no private property
- a system or condition of society in which the means of production are owned and controlled by the state
- a stage of society in Marxist theory transitional between capitalism and communism and distinguished by unequal distribution of goods and pay according to work done

—Merriam-Webster

"The future requisite of the happiness of the people is the abolition of religion." —Karl Marx

"Socialism is a philosophy of failure, the creed of ignorance and the gospel of envy. It's inherit virtue is the equal sharing of misery." —Winston Churchill

"No Christian can be a communist because communism leaves out God. It regards religion as wishful thinking and the product of fear and ignorance." —Martin Luther King

• God wants us to prioritize the practice of generosity.

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. —Ephesians 4:28

"Labor replaces theft as a means of sustenance. And more than that: it turns the thief into a benefactor. Rather than taking what belongs to others, he gives to others what is his. So the 8th Commandment mandates a lifestyle of generosity, of compassion, of love. In this way we begin to see the broader meaning of the 8th Commandment as perspective of all sin and all righteousness." —John Frame

Notes:

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

David H. McKinley, Pastor-Teacher

davidhmckinley.com