

CALL to PRAYER - Pray that we would be good stewards of what God has given

Ex. 20:15 – Personal Property Rights & Responsibilities

Intro – The Law is all about love for God & neighbor. 2nd Table focus' on how to love neighbor. #5- Authority, #6 – Dignity, #7 – Sexuality, #8 – Property. We love our neighbor by honoring what belongs to our neighbor and by acquiring our possessions in a loving way. The most basic guide for good law/ government is the 2nd Table. Protect life....Protect property....Punish perjury Promote family & Protest envy. Bad gov – takes life, takes property, winks at perjury, destroys family & nourishes envy. In our personal & national life we should love (not hate) neighbor *Distribution, Acquisition, Compensation, Negotiation, Misappropriation & Restitution*

The DISTRIBUTION of Personal Property

1. God owns it all. 1 Cor. 10:26 Ps. 24:1 Ps. 50:12
 - a. Everything we have is a gift from God. James 1:17
2. God does not give everyone the same amount of His stuff. 1 Sam. 2:7 Deut. 8:17-18
 - a. Matt. 25:15 – (some get 5...others 2...others 1) different abilities & opportunities
 - b. To whom much is given much is required (personally and nationally)
3. We are stewards of what God has given. Responsible for it & must give account for it
 - a. What God has given to us.... belongs to us Acts 5:4

The ACQUISITION of Personal Property

- We are to work for what we have and not be lazy 1 Thess. 4:11-12
 - We are to be diligent, and not negligent with our 5...or 2....or 1 Prov. 13:4
- Rule #8 requires us to work for what we have
 - 2 Thess. 3:10-12 Prov. 6:6-11 Prov. 14:23 Prov. 21:25
- God made us to work. We all have work to do. We are to work to acquire what we have

COMPENSATION for Labor

1. Work is to be rewarded with proper pay. It is stealing to underpay your neighbor
 - a. The workman is worthy of his hire.
 - b. We are not to take advantage of neighbor Lev. 19:13
 - i. "find a Mexican" cheap labor is stealing just compensation
 - ii. James 5:4-5 ("feed the lions, ride the horses, shoot the dogs")
2. It is also stealing to not be worthy of your pay. Dishonest gain
 - a. Employees can take advantage of employers as well
 - b. An honest day's work for an honest day's pay. Col. 3:22-24
 - c. "dock your pay if you slack off when the boss is off"

NEGOTIATION in Business

- "You shall not steal" is the standard for honest business practices Amos 8:4-7

- Lev. 25:14 Deut. 25:13-16 *"it's just business, it's not personal"* is immoral.
 - To take advantage of someone in buying/selling is stealing Prov. 20:14
- Excessive interest and "payday loans" steal from the poor
 - Ex. 22:25 Lev. 25:36-37 Prov. 28:8 Ezek. 22:12, 27, 29

MISAPPROPRIATION of Personal Property

1. There are many immoral ways to acquire stuff. It involves stealing our neighbor's stuff.
 - a. Smash a grabs robberies have been in the news
 - b. Train robberies
 - c. "Shrinkage" in stores costs us all (49 billion in '17)
 - d. ever been robbed? (you feel violated)
2. There is a popular notion in society that stealing doesn't count if they are rich
 - a. the idea that it doesn't matter/count if they can afford it...is evil
 - i. *"they have insurance"*
 - b. Stealing from the rich to "give" to the poor is still stealing
 - i. Robin Hood is not a hero... he is a thief
 - c. Government says they take from the rich to give to the poor, but they also excel in stealing from the poor to give to the rich. Asset forfeiture/seizure/excessive taxes
3. All stealing is an affront to God & His giving and how we are to go about getting
 - a. All thieves will have to give an account
 - b. Scammers (B.L. *"you should be ashamed of yourself trying to take advantage of an old woman...your dying and going hell"* [hangs up])
4. Religion has a way of "sanctifying" stealing. Immoral getting under the guise of religion
 - a. Faith healers Greedy for unjust gain - 2 Peter 2:14 (fleece the sheep)
 - i. They devour widows houses - Luke 20:46-47
 - b. Religion and money are a dangerous combination. Den of robbers - Jer. 7

RESTITUTION

- How do you combat stealing and punish the pilferer?
 - Rule #8 is the first commandment that doesn't have the death penalty attached
 - Different penalty prescribed (unless steal person). Biblical remedy is *restitution*.
- Restitution not incarceration
 - Ex. 22:1 (pay back 5x's or 4 x's) 22:4 (pay double mentioned 3 x's)
 - Trend to reduce sentencing in "*small theft*" (under \$800) The solution is restitution
 - Pay back double- steal 100 pay 200..... Steal car - pay 2...4 or 5
 - Making restitution is mentioned 7 times in 22:1-15 (Ezekiel 33:15)
 - Thief should pay up not be locked up. Forced to work to pay off debt
 - Eph, 4:28
 - You show repentance by restitution Zaccheus - Luke 19:8
 - Augustine - *"without restitution there is not remission"*
- The only hope for thieves is the One who was crucified between two thieves
 - Jesus made restitution in His work of redemption
 - Isaiah 40:1-2 He paid double for all our sins *Rock of Ages*