

A STUDY OF THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

“THOU SHALT NOT STEAL.”

1. As we saw when we studied the sixth commandment, “Thou shalt not *murder*”, the New Covenant goes farther than the Old. It doesn’t do away with the moral law of the Old Covenant; it amplifies it and sets a higher standard. The new covenant with Christ expects us not just to refrain from stealing, but go a step farther: “Let him that stole steal no more; but rather let him labour ... that he may have to give to him that needeth.” (Ephesians 4:28)

2. What does it mean to steal? _____

3. Explain how this might affect the following situations:

- a. Finding a wallet with \$32.00 on the floor of the grocery store.
- b. Making out your income tax for the government.
- c. Using another’s ideas.
- d. Use of your time when at work.
- e. A cashier gave you too much change.

4. People who behave morally in situations like these are said to be **honest**. Honesty is to refrain from **lying**, **cheating** or **stealing** in any form. The scriptures teach us that honesty is an important Christian characteristic. In your own words write the lessons from the texts below:

a. 2 Corinthians 8:21 _____

b. 1 Peter 2:12 _____

c. Alma 15:31 _____

People who are distinguished by their honesty are said to have **integrity**.

5. Why was young Abraham Lincoln know as “Honest Abe”?

6. Businesses and corporations lose millions of dollars every year because dishonest employees are stealing from the business. What are some of the ways employees steal from their companies? Would you ever do something like this? You must make up your mind **right now!** Many such dishonest employees say the company deserves it because they are stealing from the public. Is this true?

7. Imagine you are a mechanic working in a Goodyear Tire and repair shop and this memo came out to all the mechanics (It really did!). “Goodyear’s Tech Productivity *must* be a minimum of \$500 per day or \$2500 per week. If you cannot meet your objective, you will be released” Now the mechanic knows it is impossible to do \$500 worth of needed repairs each day without doing some jobs that are unnecessary. Studies show that more than half of the repairs made to autos were unnecessary, but, like the Goodyear Co., the employer requires it.

a. What would you do if you were the mechanic?

- b. Girls, what if you were the cashier taking the customer's money. What would you do?
8. Cheating, stealing and lying are going on everywhere. Let's take a look at the honorable field of education. Read the *Reader's Digest* article entitled "Cheating in our Schools - A National Scandal".
9. Does this seem like a minor or a major problem to you? Why?
10. What can you, one high school student, do about such a widespread problem? What does the Lord expect His people to do about all the wickedness in our society?