

Hey there! Pastor Gerber here again. Welcome back.

Today we are moving on to the 7<sup>th</sup> Commandment. But first, as usual, let's review. Commandment 1: You shall have no other Gods. #2: Don't misuse the name of the Lord your God. #3: Remember the Sabbath by keeping it holy. #4: Honor your Father and Mother. #5: Don't murder. #6: Don't commit adultery.

And, today: Commandment #7. You shall not steal.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

And, as you should be getting in the habit of realizing, that was your extra memory assignment.

So, what does God forbid in this commandment? Well, stealing right? But stealing is more than just hiding a video game under your sweater and walking out of the store. Open up your catechism to page 85. God forbids every kind of robbery, theft, and dishonest way of getting things.

Take a look at each of those Bible verses listed below the Robbery, Theft, and Dishonesty headings. See if you can fill in the blanks on your own. And don't close your catechism when you're done! You'll have to look up Malachi 3:8-10 in your Bible. Press pause now.

Ephesians 4:28 teaches us that He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must WORK and do something useful with his own HANDS.

Malachi 3:8-10 teaches us that we rob from God when we do not TITHE.

From Psalm 37:21 we learn that the wicked BORROW and do not repay.

And from Leviticus 19:35 we are told to not use dishonest standards when MEASURING length, weight, or quantity.

We might see this in a grocery store of somewhere like that. Maybe by telling the cashier that we had 1 case of soda under our cart when, in fact we have two. Or by eating a handful of grapes while we walk around the store so that we're only paying for what we take home and not what we ate throughout the store.

Ok, so we've talked about what the commandment forbids, but what does it command? What does it teach us that we should do? Well, you're hopefully still on page 86 of your catechism.

What does God require of us in the 7<sup>th</sup> Commandment? We should help our neighbor to improve and protect that person's POSSESSIONS and INCOME. We should also help out our neighbor in every NEED.

Take a look at the verses that go along with both of these requirements. They are in your catechism.

Matthew 7:12 In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you. That sounds familiar, doesn't it? It's the golden rule! Did you know that the golden rule is actually a teaching of Jesus?

Philippians 2:4. Each of you should look not only to your OWN interests, but also to the interests of OTHERS.

Matthew 5:42. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

Hebrews 13:16. Do not forget to do good, and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

1 John 3:17. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?

When we think of the 7<sup>th</sup> commandment, don't steal, it can be easy to brush this one aside and think, 'Hey, this one's no big deal! Next!' But as we look at what we are required to do, this commandment looks more difficult. Have you ever seen a person in need and not helped them, even though you could? Then you have broken the 7<sup>th</sup> commandment. Thank God for Jesus and His forgiveness, right?

The main point of the 7<sup>th</sup> Commandment is that we are to help and protect our neighbor.

Ok, so I just skipped over about half a page of your packet. When this recording is over, I want you to read through each of those situations and see if you think that God would consider those specific situations breaking the 7<sup>th</sup> Commandment.

That's all for today. As always, let me know if you have any questions. See you next time!