

**Eighth Word: What's mine is not yours – don't take it without permission
(Exod 20.15; 08-23-20am)**

Central thought: Stealing dishonors God and disrespects others

I. Building a theology of ownership

God is primary owner of all things (Ps 24.1; 50.10-12)

God established laws and principles that promote and protect ownership (Num 34)

God grants stewardship over property (and things) to people (Ps 115.16)

II. Reinforcing a theology of ownership

Stealing is always wrong (Ex 20.15)

God is the ultimate victim of all stealing (cf. Job 41.11)

God is the specific victim of some stealing (Mal 3.8-10)

III. Finding God and loving God through a theology of ownership

God honors honesty

God dignifies work (Eph 4.28; 1 Thess 4.11-12; 2 Thess 3.10)

God is pleased with generosity (Acts 2.42-46)

God does not measure our worth by our wealth (Matt 5.3-12)

God is a sufficient provider (Matt 6.25-33)

IV. Honoring God and respecting others by living out a theology of stewardship

1. Instead of thinking in terms of personal ownership, think in terms of assigned stewardship (1 Pet 4.10)
2. Instead of loving things, love God (Matt 22.37)
3. Instead of loving wealth and possessions, love other people (Matt 22.39)
4. Instead of spending your life accumulating; spend your life giving to others (Phil 2.3-4)
5. Instead of storing up treasures on earth, store up treasures in Heaven (Matt 6.19-21)