

**Q. 142. What are the sins forbidden in the eighth commandment?**

A. The sins forbidden in the eighth commandment, besides the neglect of the duties required, are, theft, robbery, man-stealing, and receiving anything that is stolen; fraudulent dealing, false weights and measures, removing landmarks, injustice and unfaithfulness in contracts between man and man, or in matters of trust; oppression, extortion, usury [exorbitant interest on loans], bribery, vexatious lawsuits, unjust enclosures [fences or walls] and depredation [plundering]; engrossing commodities to enhance the price; unlawful callings, (Acts 19:19,24,25 This was the trade in “curious arts” - linked to séances or communication with devils) and all other unjust or sinful ways of taking or withholding from our neighbor what belongs to him, or of enriching ourselves; covetousness; inordinate prizing and affecting worldly goods; distrustful and distracting cares and studies in getting, keeping, and using them; envying at the prosperity of others; as likewise idleness, prodigality, wasteful gaming; and all other ways whereby we do unduly prejudice our own outward estate, and defrauding ourselves of the due use and comfort of that estate which God hath given us.

(1Tim. 5:8 There is both responsibility and enjoyment of the blessings which God gives. When we acknowledge the giver and walk in His fear we may enjoy His blessings to us.

Asceticism—the notion that misery is godliness—has often blighted the testimony of the Lord’s people.)

**How to pray over the eighth commandment?**

1. Thank the Lord for his many provisions of life.  
Think through Proverbs 30:7-9.  
To be neither rich, nor poor is the best situation for God’s children.
2. Pray for a spirit of contentment.
3. Pray for wisdom with money.
4. Pray as a steward with the blessings God puts in your care. Pray and act knowing that all we have belongs to the Lord.
5. Pray for those who need financial help—the unemployed, the sick and elderly.

Pray that you are kept focused on the spiritual realm and not the things of this life.

Luk 12:15 And he [The Lord Jesus] said unto them, **Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.**



**CLOVERDALE**  
FREE PRESBYTERIAN

Meeting June 22/16 The Eighth Commandment.  
Exodus 20:15 “Thou shalt not steal.”

**Here are wise words of Agur:**

“Two *things* have I required of thee; deny me *them* not before I die:  
Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches;  
feed me with food convenient for me:

Lest I be full, and deny *thee*, and say, Who *is* the LORD?  
or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God *in vain*.”

Proverbs 30:7-9.

God’s daily supply as we are to pray in the Lord’s prayer is best for us to keep us trusting in the Lord, and free from temptation to steal.

**Larger Catechism Q. 141. What are the duties required in the eighth commandment?**

A. The duties required in the eighth commandment are, truth, faithfulness, and justice in contracts and commerce between man and man; rendering to every one his due; (Zech. 8:16,17, Rom. 13:7-8.)

restitution of goods unlawfully detained from the right owners thereof; (Lev. 6:4-7; Num. 5:6). (*He must add 1/5th to the principal.*

*Zacchaeus offered to restore ill gotten gain by fourfold. Albert Barnes, noted that that was a Romans law, not a Jewish law.*)

giving and lending freely, according to our abilities, and the necessities of others; (1John 3:17, Eph. 4:28)  
moderation of our judgments, wills, and affections concerning worldly goods;

a provident care and study to get, keep, use, and dispose these things which are necessary and convenient for the sustentation of our nature, and suitable to our condition; a lawful calling, and diligence in it; frugality; (1Tim. 5:8, Prov. 7:23,24).

avoiding unnecessary lawsuits, and suretiship, or other like engagements; and an endeavor, by all just and lawful means, 1Cor. 6:1-7.)

to procure, preserve, and further the wealth and outward estate of others, as well as our own. (Deut. 12:1-5).

So the command “Thou shalt not steal” lays duties upon us to seek the welfare of our neighbour and his possessions. We are to ensure that he is not wronged of his proper possessions and is helped to prosper in this world. To hinder the prosperity of our neighbour is equal to stealing.