

# HARVEST ROCK CHURCH

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## THE SPIRITUAL FIGHT FOR AMERICA TEN KEYS TO A SUCCESSFUL LIFE: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS SERIES

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**TEXT: Exodus 20:15 You shall not steal.**

**INTRO: HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICA!** Yesterday America celebrated her 244<sup>th</sup> birthday! I have entitled this message “God Bless America” because this is how my heart feels towards our nation and this is also my prayer: *God bless America!*

We are doing a series on the Ten Commandments. We are not following the traditional order. Today we want to look at the 8<sup>th</sup> Commandment, “You shall not steal.” So, the question is: What does the title have to do with the 8<sup>th</sup> Commandment? I believe that Satan is working overtime to steal and destroy the values that have made America great over 244 years, and my prayer is that God will protect the USA.

I have traveled to over 90 nations, and whenever I return, I thank God that I am an American citizen. No nation is perfect, we all live on a broken planet, but Jesus called us to “disciple nations,” and the U.S., in my opinion, is the nation with the most Christian values. One example is the freedom of religion and freedom of speech that we enjoy. God has so prospered America that the United States is the number-one mission sending and mission giving nation. There is an apostolic redemptive gift on America. I thank God that the U.S. sent missionaries to Korea in 1880, and today, you have some of the world’s largest Protestant churches in Korea!

The USA also sent troops in 1955 to liberate South Korea from the tyranny of communism. I would not be here right now otherwise.

America is a great nation, but I want to submit to you that there are forces that are trying to steal the values that made American the greatest nation in the world. Our constitutional rights to freedom of religion and freedom of speech and other values that we hold dear are at risk. That is why on this Fourth of July, I want to jump to the 8<sup>th</sup> Commandment of this Ten Commandments series: Exodus 20:15, “You shall not steal.”

I believe that we will have a good and successful society if we do not steal. Let me unpack the evil of stealing.

### **I. TRUTHS ABOUT “YOU SHALL NOT STEAL”**

**A.** This one Commandment touches all the other Commandments.

1. “You shall have no other gods before Me.” You are robbing God of the glory and honor that is due Him.
2. “Thou shalt not murder” is stealing another person’s life. Every 20 seconds, an unborn life is stolen from God in America.
3. “Thou shalt not commit adultery” is stealing another person’s spouse.
4. Giving false testimony is stealing justice. And so on.

**B.** This Commandment is open ended.

1. All the other Commandments are specific. The 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment is specific: You are to honor your parents.
2. But the Commandment not to steal doesn’t give us a hint about what it is that we are forbidden to steal.

### C. THE THREE BIG THINGS NOT TO STEAL

1. **We are not allowed to steal another human being — what we call kidnapping.** Deuteronomy 24:7 “If someone is caught kidnapping a fellow Israelite and treating or selling them as a slave, the kidnapper must die. You must purge the evil from among you.” No one who understands God’s nature and His commandments could justify slavery, because slavery begins with the kidnapping of human beings and selling them into slavery. Most of the slavery mentioned in the Old Testament that was practiced by the Jewish people is called indentured slavery: that you would serve another person for a fixed time until your debts were paid off. Even with indentured slaves, they had basic human rights. They had to be treated well, including giving them a day off to celebrate the sabbath. The slaves in America were kidnapped people from West Africa, which encompassed two evils, stealing and slavery.
2. **We are not to steal another person’s property.** We are forbidden to steal what another person owns. Throughout history, private property, beginning with land ownership, is indispensable for creating a free and good society. We are going to see how socialism takes away or steals wealth and property from individuals. E.g. Stealing my friends’ toys.
3. **We are not allowed to steal the many non-material things that people own: their reputation and their intellectual property.** Stealing a person’s reputation is done through slander, libel, or gossip. Stealing a person’s good name is so destructive that it is hard to restore. Calling anyone a racist is stealing one’s reputation. Stealing one’s intellectual property would be stealing anything from illegally downloading music, movies, or copying a software without paying for it. Stealing a person’s work is called plagiarism.

## II. WHO IS TRYING TO STEAL AMERICA’S GREATNESS?

### A. THE BIGGEST THIEF — SATAN

1. **John 10:10** “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”
2. The enemy is the enemy. He wants to steal your first love for Jesus. **Satan’s four F’s: He wants to steal your faith, your family, your finances, and your freedom.** He wants to steal your property, your time, your joy and peace.

### B. THE BIGGEST SOCIAL AND POLITICAL THIEF — THE LEFT

1. I want to first of all distinguish between **The Left, Liberalism, Conservatism (or The Right), and The Alt-Right.** The point I want to make is that the problem in America is not with liberalism or conservatism. It is the extreme left and the extreme right, which is called alt-right. For example, the alt-right are a nationalist white supremacist group. Hitler would have been extreme right. Lenin, Stalin, and Mao would be extreme left. Extreme left and right both lead to totalitarianism and dictatorship, and both have led to committing evil. E.g. Over 100 million people have been murdered by Lenin, Stalin, Mao, and Hitler. The left is philosophically and historically atheistic. Everything the left touches it destroys: education, media, economy, etc.
2. The left philosophy began with Karl Marx. Marxism is an atheistic philosophy. **Karl Marx** wrote in his 1848 *Communist Manifesto*, the foundation for socialism and communism: “**Religion is the opium of the people.**” And it stands to reason that if there is no God, communists believe that men and women are not made in the image and

likeness of God. If there is no God, then His 8<sup>th</sup> Commandment is meaningless. Communist China has stolen the intellectual property of many U.S. companies.

3. **SOCIALISM: Socialism is an economic and political ideology advocating government ownership and administration of equal distribution of wealth, goods and property. They take the wealth through legalized taxation.** I believe in the fair share of paying my taxes, but where socialism rules, people are taxed up to 75% of their income, which, in my mind, is stealing the hard-earned money of citizens. The government owns everything and there is no private property. Health care and education is all paid for. The problem is that socialism doesn't work because you run out of money. That is why China under Deng Xiaoping switched from socialism to a free market economic system but still maintained a Communist government.
  4. **Lenin said, "The goal of Socialism is Communism."**
  5. **COMMUNISM: a totalitarian system of government in which a single authority party controls or owns everything.** This is a one-party system, not two or more. E.g. The Communist Party of China (Chairman Xi Jinping), North Korea (Kim Jong-Un), Cuba (Raul Castro, the brother of the late Fidel Castro).
- C. HOW THE LEFT IS TRYING TO STEAL FROM YOU**
1. Economically. The Democratic party is moving from liberalism to the left. The left is for universal health care and free education, but how are they going to pay for it? By taxing you. No one is exempt. If they win, you will see a major tax increase. Big government means high taxation.
  2. Our First Amendment Rights. The left wants to shut down free speech. If you disagree with them, they will censure you.
  3. Our governor initially shut down the church as nonessential. Then he allowed us to meet with 100 or less. Now he is mandating no singing. All three times, he violated the Constitution that he is supposed to uphold. Ironically, this is the Jewish year 5780, the year of the mouth (*peh*).

### III. WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

- A. **REPENT** — 1 Peter 4:17 "Judgment begins in the house of the Lord." If you have stolen, repent and if possible, make restitution.
- B. **PRAYER** — Patricia King called me this past week on my day off. I normally don't take calls on Monday because that is my sabbath. But I knew it was important. She had an encounter last Saturday. God spoke to her to mobilize the nation for more prayer, and that there was going to be another attack by the enemy.
- C. **PREACH THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM WITH SIGNS AND WONDERS** — Real change in society happens based on the transformation of the heart.
- D. **VOTE BASED ON BIBLICAL VALUES** — We have a responsibility as Christians to vote. We need to vote according to biblical values.
  1. **PRO-LIFE:** Every person is made in the image of God, including the unborn.
  2. **LIBERTY:** Freedom of religion, freedom of speech.
  3. **FAMILY:** Traditional family values. Marriage is between one man and one woman.
  4. **FREE MARKET SOCIETY:** Parable of the Talents.

**CONCLUSION:** The only answer to our society is God! We need God to bring revival to the church and save those who don't know Him. Let's pray.