

Lord's Day 42

Heidelberg Catechism

The Third Part – Of Thankfulness

Question 110

What doth God forbid in the eighth commandment?

Answer

God forbids not only those thefts¹ and robberies² which are punishable by the magistrate; but He comprehends under the name of theft all wicked tricks and devices whereby we design to appropriate to ourselves the goods which belong to our neighbor,³ whether it be by force, or under the appearance of right, as by unjust weights,⁴ ells, measures,⁵ fraudulent merchandise, false coins, usury,⁶ or by any other way forbidden by God; as also all covetousness,⁷ all abuse and waste of His gifts.

Question 111

But what doth God require in this commandment?

Answer

That I promote the advantage of my neighbor in every instance I can or may, and deal with him as I desire to be dealt with by others;⁸ further also that I faithfully labor, so that I may be able to relieve the needy.⁹

1 1 Cor. 6:10

Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

2 1 Cor. 5:10

Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world.

3 Luke 3:14

And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.

1 Thes. 4:6

That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.

4 Prov. 11:1

A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight.

5 Ezek. 45:9–11

Thus saith the Lord GOD; Let it suffice you, O princes of Israel: remove violence and spoil, and execute judgment and justice, take away your exactions from my people, saith the Lord GOD. Ye shall have just balances, and a just ephah, and a just bath. The ephah and the bath shall be of one measure, that the bath may contain the tenth part of an homer, and the ephah the tenth part of an homer: the measure thereof shall be after the homer.

Deut. 25:13

Thou shalt not have in thy bag divers weights, a great and a small.

6 Ps. 15:5

He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved.

Luke 6:35

But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.

7 1 Cor. 6:10

Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

8 Matt. 7:12

Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

9 Prov. 5:16

Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, and rivers of waters in the streets.

Eph. 4:28

Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.