

## Theology Simply Explained — WSC73 “The Place of Property in God's Design for Our Lives”

Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 73—especially explaining and applying the progression in the Ten Commandments that brings us now to consider the right way of viewing, obtaining, and employing property.

WSC73: Which is the eighth commandment? *The eighth commandment is, Thou shalt not steal.*

---

**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via [hopewellarp.org](http://hopewellarp.org))**

---

Catechism question this week is, Which is the eighth commandment. The answer is the eighth, commandment is thou shalt not steal. We're going to be thinking about and hearing about. What the commandment requires? What the commandment for beds in the next two? Lessons. So in this lesson, Uh, we just think about its place among the ten commandments.

We of course, had the first four commandments which all are about god being god. God being your creator. God, being our Uh, king god, being our lawgiver god, being our judge god, being our pleasure. Uh, but especially god being alone, worthy of worship. Uh, first commandment. I'll learn definer of worship second commandment.

The one who's worth. Determines. Not just what we do in worship. As it is defined by him in the second, but also the manner in which we do those things. Third commandment reverence. And then, The timing of worship. Including an especially the lord's day. Fourth commandment, but also those other set times that he has given.

Morning and evening, and And so forth throughout our lives and that we Are not the determiners of a worship calendar etc. A fourth commandment. So the first four commandments are all about Godly, and god. And especially the worship of god. And then, The last six commandments are. About god being god and all of our life and all of our relationships, and all of our pleasures And what we do with our possessions, And what comes out of our mouths and what comes out of our hearts.

That takes us to. Of the fifth commandment that god has given us to live. First and foremost under his authority but that he communicates that by establishing authorities in the home in Uh, the Society. And in, The church. And that he gives each of us roles that are either in authority or under authority or as equals.

And, We recognize the authority of god and the dignity. Um, of others and the purpose, for which the Lord has. Appointed these things in how we fulfill, Our roles. And then gets very specific in the sixth commandment Uh, this the specific and high dignity of every man being made in the image of god.

And, Therefore, Respecting human life in a way. That is above how we respect, anything else, in the creation. Because man, alone is made in the image of god. The love that is required for our neighbor and therefore, etc. And the seventh commandment. There's a little bit of an extension of the image of god because male and female he created them in his image and marriage is therefore closely connected to the image of god.

But marriage also He has designed to be pleasurable. Uh, with the greatest pleasure. Uh, in Uh, in the earth, not just the physical pleasure. That is in marriage, but when you try to have that without The greatest pleasure, the pleasure of being united to a person in a covenantal way.

The That god has given us to image. Christ's union with his church. And plurality and oneness in a relationship that echoes Even the plurality and oneness in the triune god. Um, When you try to extract. The pleasure of romance or physical pleasure, or Um, common even the pleasure of commonality, Uh without a part from that one, man.

And one woman covenant. You see how Uh, failing to enjoy god. Um, in all of our Uh, and all of our pleasures. Is a failure to enjoy the created thing. Now, that which applies to marriage supremely applies to all other things. So that takes us to the seventh commandment.

Um, And we could go back and Think about those license last few weeks. But now this one, the eighth commandment moves from pleasure to Possessions, and it's a similar thing. That the manner of obtaining possessions is given by god. And there are many good ways to obtain possessions, and Uh, will be thinking about that.

In what the seventh commandment requires and what the sudden commandment forbids. Um, the manner of obtaining possessions. And then Um, Respecting those possessions in respecting our possessions has given by god. There's the stewardship idea of respecting others possessions has given by god. And, Not only not stealing but wanting to live and act and manage that which we have in a way that doesn't harm the possessions of our neighbors But the view of all things as being given by god and assigned by god, And therefore, you know, whether it's working hard or being productive.

Uh doing something that is useful to your fellow, man, showing charity receiving. Uh, receiving kindness or generosity. Uh, storing up an inheritance for your children. You know, the transgenerational generosity. Receiving inheritance from Uh, from your parents. The largest of a king who Um, May distribute from the royal bounty and imitation in imitation of god.

And Of course, there's Um, There's questions about that, that aren't really in the scope of this particular lesson. But just remembering that god is the one. Who gives an assigns? Property in his providence. And that is the next thing we move from person. Uh, persons in Uh, well, positions in the fifth commandment to persons in the sixth commandment to pleasures in the seventh commandment to property.

In the eighth commandment and I have two two weeks to figure out two more p words for Uh, what we do with our mouth, and what we do with our heart, but now you can really see how the ten commandments Fit together that it all comes out of who God is.

And four commandments for worship. You know how much of our life must worship me? You have four commandments for worship. And then, Uh, we have the The, the person's Um, Positions persons pleasures and now property. And then that which comes out of your mouth and that which goes on in your heart very specifically Um, ninth commandment and 10th commandment So, that's Where the eighth commandment is and how it fits into the law of god and you can see then, as we've kind of Uh, gone through the the scope to place the eighth commandment and Uh and the significance of how we obtain property.

And what we do with property and how we respect others property within the, the whole scope of who got is, who we are, how we're created, how we

respond, Uh, to him in the life, it's an important thing. Because it's been designed to be an important part. Of our life by god.

So, which is the eighth commandment? The eighth commandment is thou shalt not steal.