

I Timothy 6; Lord's Day 42

LOVING MY NEIGHBOR CONCERNING HIS POSSESSIONS

- I. The idea.
 - A. God is the sole Proprietor of all things (Ps. 24:1,2; 50:11,12).
 1. This is true because of His being Creator, Sustainer, and Governor of all things.
 2. While everything is His, He distributes without letting go, requiring an accounting and returns.
 - B. These truths make man a steward, accountable to God for the care of that which God puts under him for a while.
 1. God created man as His friend and servant, who was given dominion over creation for God's glory.
 2. Sin made man a thief, claiming creation for his purposes, locking out God, either selfishly or making man serve the creation.
 3. In salvation God restored to the redeemed the ability to be proper stewards.
- II. God identifies as stealing the violation of the relationship He has given to our possessions.
 - A. Important observations.
 - B. First, we steal from God.
 - C. We steal from our neighbor when we take advantage of him so he has a loss.
- III. The importance of our showing our gratitude by keeping this command.
 - A. Follow the example of Jesus Who was/is the perfect steward, fulling all the obligations and duties God gave Him to do.
 - B. Only those united to Christ by faith can live by faith as true stewards.
 - C. There are things we can do to avoid the sin of stealing.