

CONFESSING OUR FAITH

westminster larger catechism

Q 140. Which is the eighth commandment?

A The eighth commandment is, *Thou shalt not steal.*¹
1. Ex. 20:15; Deut. 5:19.

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;¹ rendering to everyone his due;² restitution of goods unlawfully detained from the right owners thereof;³ giving and lending freely, according to our abilities, and the necessities of others;⁴ moderation of our judgments, wills, and affections concerning worldly goods;⁵ a provident care and study to get,⁶ keep, use, and dispose these things which are necessary and convenient for the sustentation of our nature, and suitable to our condition;⁷ a lawful calling,⁸ and diligence in it;⁹ frugality;¹⁰ avoiding unnecessary lawsuits,¹¹ and suretyship, or other like engagements;¹² and an endeavor, by all just and lawful means, to procure, preserve, and further the wealth and outward estate of others, as well as our own.¹³

1. Ps. 15:2, 4; Mic. 6:8; Zech. 8:16–17; Zech. 7:4, 10. 2. Rom. 13:7. 3. Lev. 6:2–5; Luke 19:8. 4. Luke 6:30, 38; 1 John 3:17; Eph. 4:28; Gal. 6:10. 5. 1 Tim. 6:6–9; Gal. 6:14. 6. 1 Tim. 5:8. 7. Prov. 27:23–27; Eccl. 2:24; Eccl. 3:12–13; 1 Tim. 6:17–18; Isa. 38:1; Matt. 11:8. 8. 1 Cor. 7:20; Gen. 2:15; 3:19. 9. Eph. 4:28; Prov. 10:4; Rom. 12:11. 10. John 6:12; Prov. 21:20. 11. 1 Cor. 6:1–9. 12. Prov. 11:15; Prov. 6:1–6. 13. Lev. 25:35; Phil. 2:4; Deut. 22:1–4; Ex. 23:4–5; Gen. 47:14, 20; Matt. 22:39.

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