

INSTRUCTIONS INCLUDED VIII

YOU MUST NOT STEAL. Exodus 20:15 NLT

Any time we take anything that belongs to someone else or withhold that which rightly belongs to another, we have broken this commandment.

Parents we have a responsibility to teach our children how to live with honesty and integrity.

"Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. ⁵ And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. ⁶ And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. ⁷ Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. ⁸ Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. ⁹ Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 NLT

Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them. **John 14:21 NLT**

ARE YOU A GIVER OR A TAKER?

If you are a thief, quit stealing. Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need. **Ephesians 4:28 NLT**

THREE PRINCIPLES TO PASS ON TO OUR CHILDREN:

1. OUR CHILDREN NEED US TO TEACH THEM INTEGRITY.

Our relationships with others

- **When it comes to others, are you a giver or a taker?**
- **Does what you say build people up or tear them down?**

Ephesians 4:29 says, "Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them."

- **Does what you do help people... or hurt people?**

"Do not withhold good from those who deserve it when it's in your power to help them." **Proverbs 3:27 NLT**

- Direct theft shop lifting, armed robbery, and burglary
- Fraud half-hearted work, not paying what they deserve
- Withholding love

Romans 13:8-10 says... *Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*

Our relationship with God.

- **When it comes to God, are you a giver or a taker?**
- **Are you showing thankfulness to him by living a life serving Him, loving Him and worshipping Him?**

*"Should people cheat God? Yet you have cheated me! "But you ask, 'What do you mean? When did we ever cheat you?' "You have cheated me of the tithes and offerings due to me." **Malachi 3:8 NLT***

*¹⁹ Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, ²⁰ for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body. **1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NLT***

- **As followers of Christ, you and I have been bought and paid for by the blood of the Lord Jesus.**
- **Who we are and what we have belongs to Him.**

That means when we withhold our lives and gifts from Him... when we sit on the sidelines and do not participate in the work of the ministry of Christ on earth... we are taking from God what's really his. We're robbing him! And the same is true when we don't bring him our tithes and offerings.

2. OUR CHILDREN NEED US TO TEACH THEM THAT WORK IS A BLESSING.

We need to model a healthy rhythm of working hard, playing hard and resting well.

*¹⁰ Even while we were with you, we gave you this command: "Those unwilling to work will not get to eat." ¹¹ Yet we hear that some of you are living idle lives, refusing to work and meddling in other people's business. ¹² We command such people and urge them in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and work to earn their own living. **2 Thessalonians 3:10-12 NLT***

3. OUR CHILDREN NEED US TO TEACH THEM GENEROSITY.

The opposite of taking from others what you have not earned is to give to others what you have earned.

*³³ "I have never coveted anyone's silver or gold or fine clothes. ³⁴ You know that these hands of mine have worked to supply my own needs and even the needs of those who were with me. ³⁵ And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" **Acts 20:33-35 NLT** **YOU CAN'T OUTGIVE GOD!***

Next steps for me today...

- I will model integrity for my family.
- I will model a good work ethic for my family.
- I will model a spirit of contentment for my family.
- I will model a spirit of generosity for my family.