

The Seventh & The Eighth Commandment

References:

1. H.H. Pope Shenouda III: Contemplations on the Ten Commandments, Vol 4

Notes For Servants:

- 1.
- 2.

Objectives:

General: Understand the full scope of these two commandments.

Specific:

1. The importance of these commandments.
2. Usually unnoticed ways of disobeying these commandments.
3. Spiritual adulatory.

Instructions:

1. Church occasion
2. .
3. .

Bible Verse:

Alf ye love me, keep my commandments.@

(John 14:15)

Lesson:

The Seventh Commandment

AThou shall not commit adultery.@

[Ex. 20:14]

Why is adultery so hideous?

St. Paul said, **AFlee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body; but he that commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.@ [1 Cor. 6:18]**

Why is it serious to sin against the body?

ADo you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them members of a harlot? [1 Cor. 6:15]

St. Paul continues, **ADo you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy**

Spirit...and you are not your own? Therefore, glorify God in your body...@ [1 Cor. 6:19-20]

AYou are the temple of the living God...@ [2 Cor. 6:16]

ADo you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the spirit of God dwells in you? If any man defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.@ [1 Cor. 3:16-17]

God punished Adultery harshly

The flood was the harshest punishment that God inflicted on the world. The cause...adultery. The Bible says, ANow it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw daughters of men that they were beautiful.@ [Gen. 6:1-2]

God burnt down Sodom and Gomorrah because of adultery, AThen the Lord rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah from the Lord out of heaven...@ [Gen. 19:24-25]

In addition to the severe earthly punishments, there is also a heavenly penalty, ADo not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, will inherit the kingdom of God.@ [1 Cor. 6:9-10]. Notice here that St. Paul placed fornicators before idolaters, a fact which indicates the seriousness of this sin.

Non-Physical types of Adultery

1. Adultery through the senses...

The Lord said, AWhoever looks at a woman to lust for her, has already committed adultery with her in his heart.@ [Matt. 5:28]

2. Adultery through thinking...

Sinning may start with a lust in the form of ideas. Lustful thinking triggered by reading, watching, or listening to unclean things.

3. Adultery through the tongue...

This form can occur through flirting, sexual jokes, love stories, or wicked songs.

Resisting Adultery...

A. Stay away from all things that excite and lead to sinfulness. St. Paul orders us, A...not to keep company with sexually immoral people...not even to eat with such a person...put away from yourselves that evil person.@ [1 Cor. 5:9, 11-13]

B. You may have some frivolous companies who may invite you to have fun with them. If you refuse, they will mock you. Keep your spiritual principles and let the people say about you whatever they want to say. Moreover, a person whose personality is strong, leads and is not led. St. Paul says, ADo not be conformed to this world.@ [Rom. 12:2]

C. Escape from idleness. Leisure and idleness are the greatest enemies of youth. If you are persistent in your studies and mindful of your future, you will not be distracted by sin. Be one who knows the value of time and life and who invests every minute in what is of benefit. Fill your time with work, prayer, spiritual meetings, service, and reading.

D. Fill your hear with God=s love and it will drive out sin. This is done through prayer, meditation, reading the Bible, spiritual books and meetings, regular church attendance, self-judgement, confession, communion, fasting, and service.

Conclusion:

**Have I given way to impure thoughts, words, or deeds?
Have I committed any unworthy actions alone or with others?
Have I degraded myself in any way, or forgotten human dignity?
Have I read immoral books or magazines, or delighted in obscenity of any kind?
Have I associated with bad companions or frequented unsavoury places?
Have I eaten or drunk or smoked too much?
Have I been lazy, idle, or wasted my time?
Have I led others to commit sinful acts?
Have I been unfaithful to any trust confided in me?**

The Eighth Commandment

**AThou shall not steal.@
[Ex. 20:15]**

What is theft?

Stealing someone else=s belonging without their consent.

Stealing includes damaging others= property because it results in loss of someone=s belongings.

Stealing time: Working time does not belong to the employee but to the employer who pays him. If an employee exploits working time, he will be stealing this time or the pay he receives for it.

Plagiarism: Stealing ideas means that someone takes the idea of someone else and ascribes it to himself, or quotes something without referring it to its originator as if it belongs to himself.

Cheating in Examinations: In the same way as one steals an invention that belongs to someone else, one may steal a degree or a test result.

In general, theft is a form of disrespect for other people=s rights and property.

Is it possible to steal from God?

Stealing of sacred things is a serious matter, and robbing alters and churches is unimaginable.

1. Some may steal a candle or a book.

2. Not paying Tithes: A person steals from God when he refrains from paying tithes. This money belongs to the poor yet we keep to ourselves and not give to its rightful owners, the needy ones (Malachi 3:7-10).

3. The day of the Lord: The Lord has a certain day of the week that belongs to Him and not to us. We do not have the right to use it in any way we wish, for it should be devoted to God=s worship. If we spend it otherwise, we would be stealing God=s day from Him.

4. Worship time: In the same way that God has a day of the week, he also has

certain times every day which should be devoted to prayer, meditation, readings, attending religious meetings, and service. If worldly affairs take over our lives leaving us no chance for worship, we would be robbing God of His time.

How serious is stealing?

St. Paul says, ADo not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, will inherit the kingdom of God.@ [1 Cor. 6:9-10].

What is the image of one who steals?

Theft denotes the thief as vile and dishonest. It destroys his character in people=s eyes, and calls upon them to beware of him, to despise him, and not to mix with him.

Resisting Stealing...

1. Plant honesty.
2. Love others and respect their rights. If people loved each other, they would take care of each other=s possessions and would never betray each other.
3. The needy should ask God through the church for help.

Repenting from stealing...

It is not enough that a person confesses that he has stolen and has the priest read his absolution. He has to do his best to return or make up what he has stolen.

Conclusion:

Have I stolen anything or wished to do so?

Have I kept anything that did not belong to me?

Have I tried honestly to find owners of lost articles I have found?

Have I cheated anyone?

Have I paid my debts?

Have I lived within my income, and not wastefully and extravagantly?

Have I given to charitable causes in proportion to my means?

Have I been honest and upright?