

CALL TO WORSHIP

WELCOME TO THE UPTOWN CHURCH!

PSALM 150:1-2

Praise the Lord!

Praise God in His sanctuary!

Praise Him in His mighty heavens!

Praise Him for His mighty deeds!

Praise Him according to His excellent greatness!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please check your bulletin for more announcements and information.



PRAYER OF INVOCATION

A pastoral prayer of adoration, thanksgiving, and illumination.

Psalm 25:4-5, 67:1-2, 105:4, 116:2, 119:18

Matthew 18:20, 28:19-20; Luke 24:32,45; Ephesians 1:17–19; 1 Corinthians 2:14

MATTHEW 5:23-24, 18:15

If you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.



PASSING THE PEACE

Unity & Reconciliation

*Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 16:20; 2 Corinthians 13:11-12;
1 Thessalonians 5:26; 1 Peter 5:14; Matthew 5:23-24, 18:15; Leviticus 19:17-18*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Corporate prayer of our covenantal commitment with our Heavenly Father through the Son of God, which encourages the confession of sin together.

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

Our Father,
who is in heaven,
hallowed be Your Name.
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.



Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive those who are indebted to us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.



For Yours is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
forever and ever.

Amen.



PSALMS, HYMNS & SPIRITUAL SONGS

Praising and glorifying our Lord and Saviour in song together.

Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; Psalm 150

TEN COMMANDMENTS AND THE EPISTLES

A Responsive Reading of the Law

*Exodus 20; Romans 11:36; Colossians 1:14-15; Hebrews 13:15, 4:9-11;
Colossians 3:20; Ephesians 4:32; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Ephesians 4:28;
Ephesians 4:15; Philippians 4:11-13; 1 Timothy 1:17*

PASTOR

You shall have no other gods before Me.

PEOPLE

For from Him and through Him and to Him
are all things. To Him be glory forever!



PASTOR

You shall not make for yourself an idol.

PEOPLE

In Christ we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.



PASTOR

You shall not take the Lord's name in vain.

PEOPLE

Let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God—the fruit of lips that confess His name.



PASTOR

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

PEOPLE

For we who have believed enter that rest....
For whoever has entered God's rest has
also rested from his works as God did.



PASTOR

Honour your father and your mother.

PEOPLE

Children, obey your parents in all things,
for this is well pleasing to the Lord.



PASTOR

You shall not murder.

PEOPLE

Be kind and compassionate to one another,
tenderhearted, forgiving one another,
as God in Christ forgave you.



PASTOR

You shall not commit adultery.

PEOPLE

You are not your own, for you were bought at a price. So, glorify God in your body.



PASTOR

You shall not steal.

PEOPLE

Let the thief no longer steal, but do honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.



PASTOR

You shall not give false testimony.

PEOPLE

Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Christ who is the Head of the whole body.



PASTOR

You shall not covet.

PEOPLE

For I have learned, in whatever situation I am, to be content. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.



EVERYONE

To the King of the ages,
immortal, invisible, the only God,
be honor and glory
forever and ever.
Amen.



PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Pastoral & Congregational Prayers

Hebrews 13:3; Psalm 107:20-22

HEBREWS 13:3

Remember those who are in prison,
as though in prison with them,
and those who are mistreated,
since you also are in the body.



PSALM 107:20-22

He sent out His word and healed them,
and delivered them from their destruction.
Let them thank the Lord for His steadfast love,
for His wondrous works to the children of man!
And let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving,
and tell of His deeds in songs of joy!



BLESSING & DISMISSAL OF THE CHILDREN

Call children to the altar for prayer and blessing.

Matthew 18:1-14, 19:13-14

MATTHEW 18:1-5

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”

Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives a little child like this in My name receives Me.”



CALL THE ELDERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastoral intercession, confession of sin, and anointing of the sick
alongside communal prayer, praise, and worship.

James 5:13-16; Psalm 103:2-5; 1 John 1:5-10

1 JOHN 1:5-10

This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.

If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.



1 JOHN 1:5-10

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and His word is not in us.



JAMES 5:13-16

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray.

Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.

Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up.



JAMES 5:13-16

And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.

The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.



PSALMS, HYMNS & SPIRITUAL SONGS

Praising and glorifying our Lord and Saviour in song together.

Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; Psalm 150

DECLARATION OF THE LAW

The Greatest Commandment with a supplementary passage.

*Mark 12.29-31; Matthew 22:35-40; Luke 10:25-28;
John 13:34-35; 1 John 4:7-8,21; Romans 13:9-10; Galatians 5:14; Matthew 7:12
Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Leviticus 19:18*

‘Hear, O Israel!

The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

And you shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart, with all your soul,
with all your mind, and with all your
strength.’



This is the first and great commandment.

And the second is like it:

‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

On these two commandments hang all
the Law and the Prophets.



For the commandments,
“You shall not commit adultery,
You shall not murder,
You shall not steal,
You shall not covet,”



and any other commandment,
are summed up in this word:

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

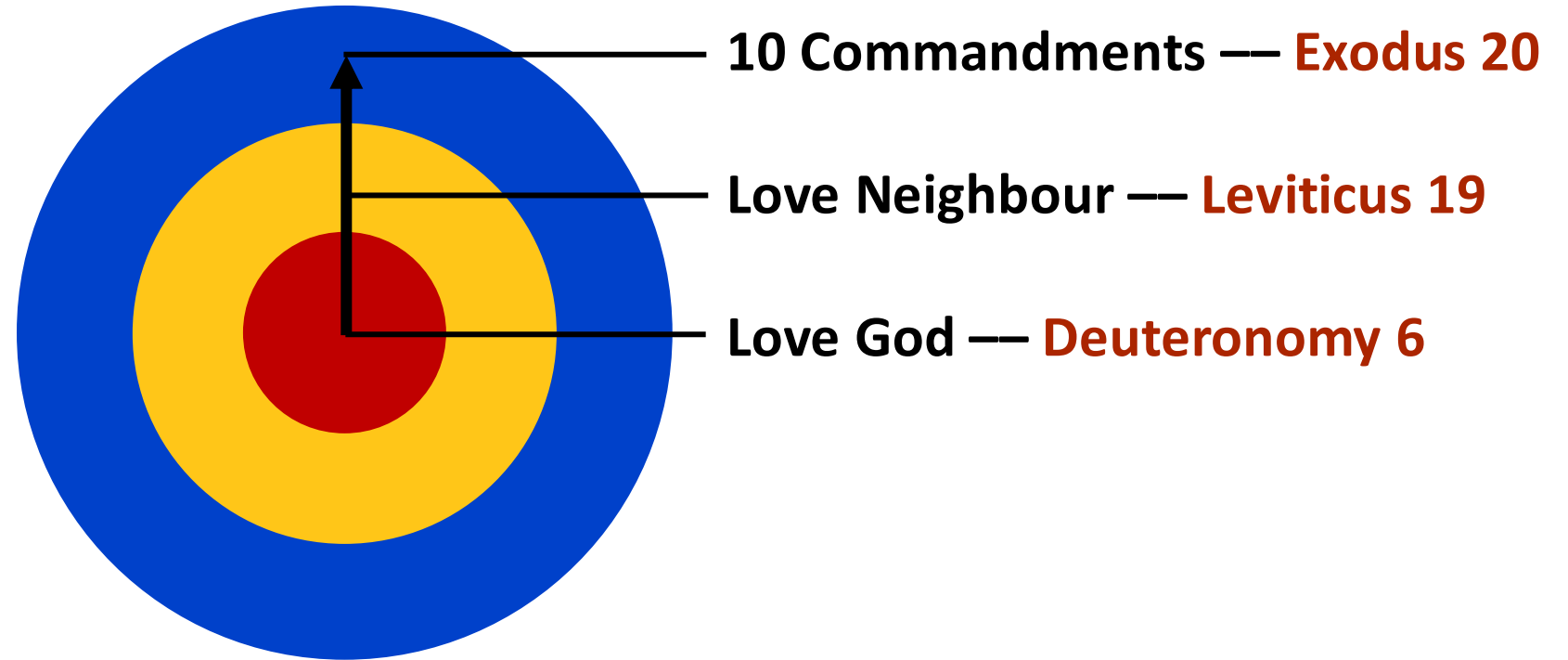
Love does no wrong to a neighbor;
therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.



NO STEALING

Understanding the Decalogue, Part VIII

EXODUS 20 – 10 COMMANDMENTS



EXODUS 20 – 10 COMMANDMENTS

1. **No other gods:** Worship only the one true God.
2. **No idols:** Do not make or worship images/idols.
3. **No misusing God's name:** Do not carry God's name falsely.
4. **Keep the Sabbath (No working):** Set aside a day to worship and rest in God.
5. **Honor parents:** Respect your father and mother.
6. **No murder:** Do not kill people unjustly.
7. **No adultery:** Be faithful to your spouse.
8. **No stealing:** Do not take what belongs to others.
9. **No lying:** Do not give false testimony (lie).
10. **No coveting:** Do not desire, envy, or crave what belongs to your neighbor.



NO STEALING

Exodus 20:15 — You shall not steal.

Deuteronomy 5:19 — You shall not steal.

- The act of taking something (or someone) that belongs to someone else without permission or legal right, usually with the intent to keep it or profit from it.
- In Hebrew, the word “steal” (*ganab*) implies stealth and secrecy.



LEVITICUS 19:11-14

“You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another. You shall not swear by My name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the Lord.

“You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired worker shall not remain with you all night until the morning. You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the Lord.”



NO STEALING

- **Theft** — larceny, pilfering, shoplifting, petty theft, grand theft
- **Fraud** — time, payroll, plagiarism, imposter scams, romance scams, identity theft (cybertheft, phishing), investment schemes, credit card or insurance fraud (false claims), etc.
- **Embezzlement** — siphoning/skimming, check tampering, etc.
- **Exploitation** — wage theft (time theft), predatory lending, corporate price-fixing, kleptocracy, “sweatshops” etc



NO STEALING

- **Robbery** — armed robbery, aggravated, street muggings, carjackings, bank holdups, etc.
- **Burglary** — break-and-enter, smash-and-grab, residential (first-degree), commercial (second-degree), etc.
- **Kidnapping** — man-stealing, abduction, aggravated, etc.
- **Enslavement** — labour trafficking, slave labour, human trafficking, slave-dealing or slave-trading, etc.



STATE OF STEALING

- If you're poor, do not steal...
- If you're rich, do not steal...
- But! If you're rich or wealthy, you are more culpable (**Luke 12:48**).
- To be clear: Stealing does not come from one's economic position, it comes from an emptiness in our heart that desires to be filled (**Matthew 15:19**). By indulging our blind and disordered sinful desires—namely, greed—we fill our empty hearts with something temporary, rather than Someone eternal



CONSEQUENCE FOR STEALING

Exodus 22:1-15 — Property Management & Restitution:

- **vv.1–4.** Proportionate Consequences and Legal Self-Defense
- **vv.5–6.** Unintentional & Negligent Property Damage
- **vv.7–15.** Safekeeping, Caretaking & “Breaching Trust”



CONSEQUENCE FOR STEALING: DEBT

Exodus 22:1-15 — Property Management & Restitution:

- **vv.1–4.** Proportionate Consequences and Legal Self-Defense
- **vv.5–6.** Unintentional & Negligent Property Damage
- **vv.7–15.** Safekeeping, Caretaking & “Breaching Trust”
- The consequence for stealing is **debt**.
- The penalty for stealing is **paying back the debt owed**.
- **Debt Requires Recompense** (restitution, penance, etc.).



LUKE 19:1-5 – RECOMPENSE

He entered Jericho and was passing through. And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.” So he hurried and came down and received Him joyfully.



LUKE 19:6-10 – RECOMPENSE

And when they saw it, they all grumbled, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, **“Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.”** And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

- **Exodus 22:1** — If a man steals an ox or a sheep, and kills it or sells it, he shall repay five oxen for an ox, and **four**



LEVITICUS 6:1-7 – GUILT OFFERING

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “If anyone sins and commits a breach of faith against the Lord by deceiving his neighbor in a matter of deposit or security, or through robbery, or if he has oppressed his neighbor or has found something lost and lied about it, swearing falsely—in any of all the things that people do and sin thereby—if he has **sinned and has realized his guilt and will restore what he took** by robbery or what he got by oppression or the deposit that was committed to him or the lost thing that he found or anything about which he has sworn falsely...



LEVITICUS 6:1-7 – GUILT OFFERING

he shall restore it in full and shall add a fifth to it, and give it to him to whom it belongs on the day he realizes his guilt.

And he shall bring to the priest as his compensation to the Lord a ram without blemish out of the flock, or its equivalent, for a guilt offering. And the priest shall make atonement for him before the Lord, and **he shall be forgiven for any of the things that one may do and thereby become guilty.”**



ROOT OF STEALING

This is the deeper reality of stealing:

- Everything you own belongs to God.
- Everything you are belongs to God.
- That is to love the Lord your God with all your strength!
- False gods, false religions, false beliefs are stealing you from God, from life Himself — from love, joy, and peace — from your spouse, children, family, from living a good, virtuous, holy life.



ROOT OF STEALING

This is the deeper reality of stealing:

- **John 10:1-2,10** — “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.... The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”
- **Proverbs 10:2** — Treasures gained by wickedness do not profit,
but righteousness delivers from death.

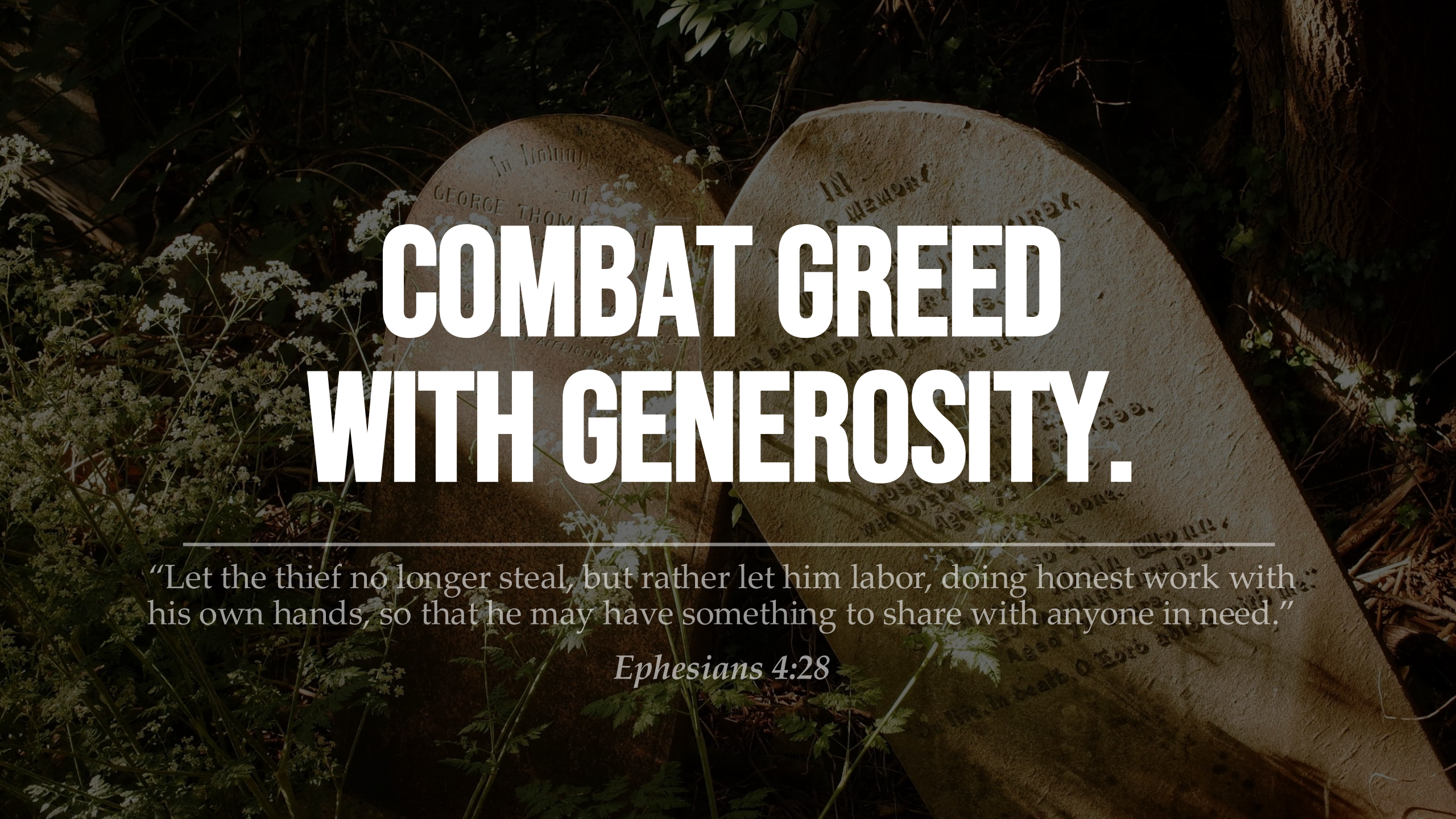


ROOT OF STEALING

This is the deeper reality of stealing:

- Greed is death itself coming out of your heart (**Matthew 15:19**)
- **1 Timothy 6:10** — “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.”
- **Greed robs you of the fruit God designed you to bear: Generosity, Gratefulness, and Gladness.**



The background of the image shows several weathered, light-colored gravestones in a cemetery. The stones are partially obscured by green foliage and small white flowers in the foreground. The text is overlaid on this scene.

COMBAT GREED WITH GENEROSITY.

“Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.”

Ephesians 4:28

COMBAT GREED WITH GENEROSITY

Leviticus 19:9-10 — When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the Lord your God.



The background of the image shows two large, weathered gravestones in a cemetery. The stones are light-colored and have some inscriptions, though they are partially obscured by the text overlay. The surrounding area is filled with green foliage and small white flowers. The overall tone is somber and reflective.

COMBAT AVARICE WITH SACRIFICE.

“But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return,
and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High,
for He is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.”

Luke 6:35

The background of the image shows several weathered, light-colored gravestones in a cemetery. The stones are partially obscured by dark, dense foliage and some small white flowers. The overall lighting is dim, creating a somber and reflective atmosphere. The text is overlaid on this background.

COMBAT THEFT WITH THANKFULNESS.

"Treasures gained by wickedness do not profit,
but righteousness delivers from death."

Proverbs 10:2

PSALMS 62:10-12

Put no trust in extortion;
set no vain hopes on robbery;
if riches increase, set not your heart on them.
Once God has spoken;
twice have I heard this:
that power belongs to God,
and that to you, O Lord, belongs steadfast love.
For you will render to a man
according to his work.





CONQUER DEBT WITH GRACE.

“God made [us] alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This He set aside, nailing it to the cross.”

Colossians 2:13-14

PRAYER OF SUPPLICATION

Pastoral Prayer of Application of God's Word.

Ephesians 6:18; 1 Timothy 2:1

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord's Supper — Fellowship Offering of Thanksgiving

*Matthew 26:26–29, Mark 14:22–25, Luke 22:14–20; Acts 2:42
1 Corinthians 10:14–21, 11:23–32; 2 Corinthians 13:5; 1 Timothy 4:4–5*

1 CORINTHIANS 10:16-17

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ?

The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?

Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.



1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-24

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."



1 CORINTHIANS 11:25-26

In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



1 CORINTHIANS 11:27-28

Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord.

Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.



1 CORINTHIANS 11:29-32

For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.

That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.



1 CORINTHIANS 5:6-8

Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.



1 JOHN 1:8-9

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.



2 CORINTHIANS 13:5; ROMANS 14:24

Therefore:

Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? — unless indeed you fail to meet the test!

For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Prayer of thanksgiving and participation in the body and blood of Christ.

*Matthew 26:26–29, Mark 14:22–25, Luke 22:14–20; Acts 2:42
1 Corinthians 10:14–21, 11:23–32; 2 Corinthians 13:5; 1 Timothy 4:4–5*

SENDING SONG

The final song of service before we are sent out to spread the good news.

Mark 16:15; Matthew 28:18-20; Psalm 103:1-5, 150:1-6

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him, above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen!



BENEDICTION

Priestly Blessing

BENEDICTION

May the glory and love of God the Father,
And the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
And the power and communion of the Holy Spirit,
Conform you into the image of His Son this week
Go in the joy that surpasses all understanding.
Amen.

2 Corinthians 13:14, Philippians 4:7



FELLOWSHIP

Please check your bulletin for services this week.

