

How should we then live?



#thePLEDGE is a series on the Ten Commandments to guide us through this season:

- **Read Exodus 20:1-17**

- **Today:**

Exodus 20:15 "You shall not steal."

1. Do not steal _____, Property, or Ideas.

2. How _____ / _____ relates to this command.

3. How this command is to be lived out in _____ economy.

Application In Community



Note: We just came out of an election. Perhaps this election will rip our nation apart. But the church (you and I) can have a moral voice that brings stability and change. How? We (Christians) need to be united based on GOD's Word lived out in Christian community called "Church" so that the world will see GOD's economy and realize, "They live differently with human flourishing despite circumstances, hey you, why is this so?" And this is an opportunity for sharing how the GOSPEL relates to economics. And so today, let us discuss GOD's economy in Christian community (our small group).

- First – the GOSPEL is not just the A,B,Cs of salvation but the A to Z of the Christian life. So, how does the GOSPEL affect your view of possessions, wealth, and sharing within community?

- Second – in GOD's economy (the Christian Community), Christian "fellowship" is supposed to result in having "everything in common" (see Acts 2:44-45).¹ Read the following Scriptures and discuss how these verses are to be lived out in relation to each type of situation:
 - Stealing or desiring what is not yours (Ex. 20:15, 17).
 - Give to needy Christians and the rest of the world (Acts 2:44-45; 1 John 3:17; Galatians 6:6-10; Philippians 2:4; James 2:14-17).
 - What if someone doesn't want to work? (Ephesians 4:28 and 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12)

- Take the following scenario – how would you as a group solve this issue?

Story: A woman is a single mom of two elementary age boys. She is struggling to pay her bills. She just started coming to church and your group in the past two months. One week she expresses the need to pay her electric and water bills of about \$350. So, the group bands together to help her by passing the hat to give her the full amount. Two weeks later, she shares that her water was just turned off and her electric bill has been threatened to be turned off if she does not pay her bills. So, you ask, "Didn't we just give you \$350? Wasn't that enough?" She sheepishly answers that she used it to buy her older son a new bike and then took the kids out for burgers and did not have enough left to pay her bills.

What would you say or do as a group in that situation? (I am describing a situation that has actually occurred and there is a solution to help her holistically and keep her as a part of your group – this takes some problem solving related to the A to Z of the GOSPEL and how it relates to her situation.²

¹ Fellowship = "koinonia" in Greek, which means "sharing."

² If you want to understand the solution that Pastor Ryan is thinking of, talk to him after you have discussed this.