

Faith at home... Replace stealing with giving
Ephesians 4:28

The study of Sanctification the activity of the old sinful life is not fitting for our new life. Anything that mars relationships, get rid of it. The witness of grace and the Holy Spirit in our lives is Holiness promotes the grace of God in our lives and in this church
Lying, having a bad temper is not fitting for the faith at home.

PRAY

The thief should quit stealing. Instead, he should work producing with his own hands good things so that he has something to share generously with the one in need.
A renewed mind leads to: Giving up stealing, working hard with your hands, and giving to those in need.

Here we again have a stated negative followed with a positive then a reason.
The thief should quit stealing.
Klepto stealing secretly , not violent robbery.

Many converts in Ephesus came from hard and rough and bad backgrounds.
This appeal is frequent in the OT and the ancient Greeks and Romans taught that stealing was wrong. Some converts continued to steal and this is not fitting for the Christian life.

The short life of a gum thief. Here is a pic of innocence and happiness. **Big Wheel**
I was a kid young and innocent one day I became a gum thief. **Fruit stripe Gum**
Kaylin gum

Why do people steal?

Again I am going to give these 3 basic reason for you to remember.

Why is the world as it is? Celebrities fail. (if Washington is a swamp Hollywood a cesspool)

Most of our problems are found in these 3 statements:

It is a heart issue.

Selfish and sinful.

An incorrect view of God.

Do you really trust that God will provide? Satisfy? That you belong to God?

And a deficiency of a person's self-image.

Greed. Some people have a hording desire and neurotic need for material security.

"Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own."

Luke 12:13-31 wanting to build bigger barns.

Life is measured by my position in Christ, not in my possessions.

Stealing and idleness go together. Idle minds and lives are dangerous.

When a person doesn't have something particular to occupy their self with, they can be tempted to sin. With no goal or purpose in life we can waist time and be easily distracted which can lead to sin.

"For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. 2 Thess 3:10-12.

We today are not exempt from the temptations of stealing.

There are many different ways to stealing, other ways than gum from a store.

Do you rob God? wait I thought this was about stealing stuff?

You rob God when you fail to worship Him. we take from Him the glory due his name

You think your life, body, and possessions belong solely to you.

We belong to Him and steal from Him when

We steal from God and ourselves when we waste that which He entrusted to you

Maybe you put your 40 hrs. in but you are still lazy – get busy for God.

We fail to honor and love others.

Do you rob your employer?

Put in ½ hour of work and write down 1 hour.

Taking pay for time you did not spend doing what your employer thought you did.

Do you rationalize doing personal work on company time? facebook

Do you rob from people working under you?

Corporate scandals

Not paying a worker his full wages.

Overcharge for a service or produce you provide.

Do you rob from others around you?

Taking money or things that don't belong to you.

Lying to your landlord.

Living off of others at their expense.

Don't cheat on you taxes.

Do you download stuff illegally, or copyrighted material? pirated videos

Do you steal from your family?

Possibly you work too much and are stealing from your family time.

Stop being a klepto in any of these ways, it is not fitting for this new faith you have.

Now to the positive. Not just the 8th commandment "Thou shalt not steal" but more- honest labor.

Instead, he should work producing with his own hands good things

Don't use your hands for stealing, use your hands for good hard work.

Do good things with your hands, not wrong things with your hands.

Here is an intense word for work.

Labor, toil, strenuous work that which would produce some sweet

Wisconsin farm kids top of college list for acceptance

Refusing to work or having an unhealthy dependence on others is wrong.

This is for all to hear.

Not just what you may label welfare cheaters and fraud or idle rich people.

Work hard.

Honest labor is important to God. Eph. 2:10

Protestant work ethic Take pride in your meaningful labor

Honest labor is a sign of new life.

Honest labor is good and rewarding.

A job well done is fulfilling and rewarding.

Honest labor has a meaning.

It is not work hard so you can just buy things and enjoy life.

Reason: so that he has something to share generously with the one in need.
Our goal for work is different than the worlds which is mainly to enrich themselves,
for us it is to enrich others.

There is meaning to your labor and it is more than just providing for your own needs.
One of the reasons we work is to help others. Be self-supporting and supportive of the ones in need.
Our mentality is not about selfishness or personal gain, giving is how I get the most.
Not just about the tax benefit

Here are a few ways this can be done:

We work and earn so that we can give something good away.

Move from taking to giving. Turn your thievery into philanthropy.

The past employment of dishonesty has now been changed to the work of blessing others.

God blesses us so we can bless others.

Hold lightly to your earthly possessions for our treasure is in heaven. Matt 6:19

Look with the eyes of Jesus for people in need.

True human tenderness toward the poor comes from a heart that belongs to Jesus.

Our faith in this new home is to be filled with generosity, mercy, and a willingness to
live sacrificially and simple lives which speak volumes of the grace given to us and
allows us to share the beauty of Christ to those in need. This is a privilege.

There are some who don't work and just want handouts- sad. Good to be street wise Dave SvDp
What are the real and legitimate needs?

There are some who do have genuine needs. Matt 25:31-46 I am proud of our church.

"God does not need our good works, but our neighbor does." Luther

The sharing family. The giving of our gain is a part of the sharing of Christ.

I am to be a steward of the goods for the poor even if these goods were earned by my hands.

Contribute to the needs of the saints.

There is a call in the NT to meeting the community's needs. Rom 12:9-13

To share means being in community and living in one accord. Be in fellowship

Generosity to fellow believers was a hallmark of the early church and
a natural part of the Christian lifestyle.

Give to God cheerfully and liberally.

Prov. 3:9 Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops.

Not the left-overs, like the types of clothing donated last year's fire.

Don't withhold from God that which should be given to Him.

The practice in the early church was that believers would voluntary bring money and
material goods to the apostles who would then distribute to those in need. Acts 4, 20
Believers to set aside a collection "on the first day of the week" 1 Cor. 16:2.

2 Cor. 9:6-7. ⁶ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and
whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each of you should give
what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under
compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

If you consider MEF your home church I encourage you to tithe cheerfully and liberally.

Titling an occasion of thanksgiving, caring, and worship. Trust the lord w/ 10%

Don't withhold from God that which should be given to others.

A renewed mind leads: Give up stealing, work hard with your hands, and to give to those who
are in need.

Take time and repent if needed, reflect what God has given you and render to the needy.