

(ABC's that threaten Christian living)

Stealing And Theft

By Dr. Gary M. Gulan, ©1986, (Rev. 99)

Timeless Truths (Why should I avoid stealing and theft?)

1. Christians are commanded not to suffer the penalties as a "thief" (Gr. "kleptes"), 1 Pt. 4:15 (cf. Ex. 20:15; Lev. 19:11; Deut. 5:19; 24:7).
2. Servants (app. Christian employees) are commanded not to "steal" (Gr. "nosphidzo") from their masters (app. employers), Titus 2:10.
3. When someone "steals" (Gr. "klepteo"), he does not show love toward his neighbor, Rom. 13:9.
4. "Robbery" (Gr. "lestes") often involves not only stealing and but also murder, Matt. 27:38; Jn 10:10; Job 24:14.
5. Stealing often involves present suffering, 1 Pt. 4:15; and also future eternal consequences, 1 Cor. 6:10 (Prov. 9:17).
6. Stealing profanes the name of God, Prov. 30:9.
7. The stealing of people (i.e. kidnapping) under the O.T. Law was punishable by death, Deut. 24:7.

Practical Prescriptions (How can I avoid stealing and theft?)

1. Stop stealing: stealing is a sinful choice not a mental disorder!

"Let him that stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need." Eph. 4:28.

2. Start laboring for the things you want and get them honestly!

"Let him that stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need." Eph. 4:28.

3. Share what you have with others removing their temptation to steal!

"Let him that stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need." Eph. 4:28.

4. Settle the accounts with those from whom you stole!

"People do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy himself when he is starving. Yet when he is found, he must restore sevenfold. He may have to give up all the substance of his house."
Prov. 6:30-31

"If a man delivers to his neighbor money or articles to keep, and it is stolen out of the man's house, if the thief is found, he shall pay double." Ex. 22:7.

5. Shield yourself by removing double standards from your life!

"You therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal? Rom. 2:21.

6. Separate from people who steal and do not be friends with them!

"Whoever is a partner with a thief hates his own life..." Prov. 29:24.