

“Walk in Love – Part Two”

1. Walk in Unity – 4:2-16
2. Walk in Holiness (new life) – 4:17-24
3. Walk in Love – 4:25-5:2 (Application of walking in Unity + Holiness)
  - a. Put off Lying; Put on Speaking Truth (25)
  - b. Put off Sinful Anger; Put on Reconciliation (26-27)

c. Put off \_\_\_\_\_; Put on \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (28)  
<sup>28</sup> He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have *something* to share with one who has need.

1) Method:

- Put off / Renew your mind

- Put on

**Stealing (partial list):**

- Petty / Grand theft
- Fraud / Embezzlement
- Shoplifting / Employee theft
- Receiving stolen property
- Writing bad checks
- Identity theft / Copyright violations
- Robbery / Armed robbery
- Not paying taxes
- Damaging or abusing the property of others
- Not paying by an agreed upon time
- Misrepresenting what you are selling
- Religious manipulation
- Borrowing & not returning
- Cheating on exams / plagiarism
- Charging excessive interest
- Sex before marriage / Adultery
- Not tithing
- Not giving God glory

2) Motive = “so that he will have *something* to share with one who has need.”

So what?

**MINI-THEOLOGY ON WORK:**

1. Work is good. Gen. 1-2; 2:15
2. Work became harder after the Fall. Gen. 3:17ff
3. We need rest from work. Gen. 1; Ex. 23:12
4. We need to work hard (be diligent). Prov. 10:4; 12:11, 24, 27; 13:4, 11, 23; 14:4, 23; 21:5; 22:29; 27:23; 28:19; 31:27.
5. Avoid the get-rich-quick schemes. Prov. 21:5; 28:19
6. Hard work is blessed. Ps. 128:2; Prov. 12:11, 14; 13:4, 11; 14:23
7. God joins with us in our labors. Ps. 127; I Cor. 3:9; 15:10
8. Work is vain apart from God and an eternal perspective. Eccl. 2:11, 17-22; contrast Eccl. 2:24; 5:18f
9. All work is to be done for God’s glory. I Cor. 10:31; Eph. 6:5-9; Col. 3:17; 23f
10. We should work hard so we can give to others. Eph. 4:28
11. People who don’t work should not eat. 2 Th. 3:10-12
12. Workers should be paid promptly and fairly. If you rob them, God will judge you. Lev. 19:13; Mal. 3:5; James 5:4
13. There are many benefits to work: Provision for oneself. Prov. 12:14; 28:19; Ability to share with others. Eph. 4:28; Profit. Prov. 13:11; 14:23; Stature. Prov. 12:24; Happiness. Ps. 128:2; Eccl. 5:18f

## Discussion / Application:

1. Most people are convicted when discussions about lying and anger come up. But a lot of people don't think they have a problem with the third illustration of walking in love: stealing. Why is that? Look at the partial list of ways people steal on the front of the outline. Do you struggle with any of those? What other methods of stealing could you add to that list?
2. What are specific ways people steal from their employer? Read Col. 3:22-25 to see how we should behave at work and why.
3. Why is stealing wrong? What biblical principles does it violate? Why is it an example of not walking in love? Love for whom?
4. How do people steal from God? Make a list. Why don't we think we are stealing from God? How would a proper understanding of "ownership" (Ps. 24:1) and "stewardship" (Lk. 16:1-13) impact the answer to that question?
5. Read Malachi 3:8-12. How were the children of Israel robbing God? The average Evangelical in America gives less than 2% of their income to charity (that is total contributions to charities including their church). Why don't they believe this is robbery? What common excuses are given? Besides robbing God and robbing ministry that could be happening, how are they ultimately robbing themselves? (See Mt. 6:19-24; Lk. 6:38)
6. What specific thoughts need to change when it comes to stealing? How can we renew our minds so that we are no longer takers but givers? List specific verses that would be good to memorize.
7. After putting off all forms of stealing, what must we put on in its place? What ever happened to the "Protestant work ethic"? Why were Protestants specifically noted for working hard? What biblical truths motivated them to work hard?
8. Is Paul saying we have to do manual labor ("with his own hands")? Are white collar jobs okay for believers? What is the point he is making?
9. What is "generosity"? Look up some definitions. [Note: see 1 Tim. 6:17-19 with the understanding that if you have more than basic food, shelter, and clothing... you are RICH] How does working hard and managing our resources well make it possible for us to be generous? What are the benefits of being generous (Prov. 3:9-10; 11:25)? Are you characterized by the word generous? If not, why not? If you are in debt, please take "Financial Peace University" when it is offered so you can better manage the resources God has entrusted to you and then be able to be generous.
10. Working hard, managing resources well, and giving to meet needs is an example of being an imitator of God. In what sense is LOVE the key? If we are takers instead of givers, who do we really love?
11. Bonus question. Although giving the devil an opportunity is directly connected with sinful anger in Ephesians 4:26-27, how does stealing from others give him an opportunity to do damage to our personal lives and in our church? In what sense was he the original thief? In what sense did he help Eve become the first human thief? What is the ultimate thing he wants to steal from God? As a new creation in Christ Jesus, stop following his example and start following the example of Jesus in your thoughts, attitudes, desires, and actions for the glory of God your Father.