

“STRONG FAMILIES: PROSPERING WITH INTEGRITY”

Introduction: THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

Exodus 20:14 (NIV) [God] “You shall not steal.”

Martin Luther: What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor’s money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

HOW DO WE STEAL?

1. By d_____customers.

Amos 6:5 (TEV) “They overcharge, use false measures, and fix the scales to cheat the customer.”

2. By d_____employers.

Colossians 3:23 (NIV) “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord.”

3. By d_____payments.

Leviticus 19:13 (TEV) “Don’t take advantage of anyone... don’t hold back the wages of someone you have hired, not even for one night.”

4. By d_____the government.

Romans 13:6-7 (TEV) “The authorities are working for God... Pay what you owe them; pay your personal and property taxes...”

5. By d_____the Lord.

Malachi 3:8 (NEV) “Will a man rob God? Yet you rob Me! But you ask, ‘How do we rob You, God? By withholding tithes and offerings.!’”

THREE REASONS WHY I SHOULD BE HONEST

1. I AM BEING _____.

Job 34: 21-22 (LB) “God carefully watches the goings on of all mankind; He sees them all. No darkness is thick enough to hide evil men from His anger.”

- 1. By _____.
- 2. By your_____.
- 3. By _____.

2. I WILL _____ WHATEVER I _____.

Galatians 6:7 (LB) “Don’t be misled, remember a man will always reap just the kind of crop he sows.”

Proverbs 15:27 (TEV) "Try to make a profit dishonestly and you will get your family in trouble."

- Three reasons we steal

1. _____

- Myth: Getting something _____.

2. _____

- Con men: Looking for people looking _____.

3. _____

- Conning people: Doesn't prove superior I _____. Rather shows inferior _____

3. DISHONESTY DAMAGES _____.

Mark 8:36 (NIV) "What good is it for man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?"

John 8:44 (NIV) "The devil.. is a liar and the father of lies."

- Decision: am I going to become more like _____ or more like _____?
- In business: _____ pays!

CONCLUSION: THREE STEPS TO INTEGRITY

1. MAKE _____ WHEN POSSIBLE

Luke 19:8 (TEV) [Zaccheaus] "If I have cheated anyone, I will pay him back four times as much."

2. GIVE GOD MY FULL _____.

Malachi 8:8-10 (TEV) "Is it right for a person to cheat God? Of course not... Bring the full amount of your tithes to the temple."

- Living under grace, not under law, we should _____.

3. MAKE A LIVING _____

Ephesians 4:28 (Phillips) "The man who used to be a thief must give up stealing, and do an honest day's work with his own hands..."

- Jesus paid for our dishonest ways by His work on the cross.