



LET'S DO IT GOD'S WAY "Handling Property Properly" Exodus 20:15

No. 5526

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George Gallup, Jr. said, "It is ironic that while religion in America is growing in popularity, morality is declining." The *Wall Street Journal* reported that a poll showed no difference in attitudes between "churched" and "unchurched" with regard to cheating on expense accounts and tax reporting.

I. The Shapes and Sizes of Stealing.

A. Stealing from humans.

1. Depriving a person of property is stealing.
 - a. Property as necessity. 1 Timothy 6:6-8; Deuteronomy 24:6-13
 - b. Property as a right. Exodus 20:17
 - c. Property as a trust. Psalm 24:1
2. Depriving a person of liberty is stealing.
 - a. Persons as God's servants. Leviticus 25:55
 - b. Denying freedom to be what God intended. Deuteronomy 24:7
3. Depriving a person of dignity is stealing.
 - a. Destroying a reputation.
 - b. Degrading a name. Acts 19:25-27
 - c. Denying a person justice. Isaiah 10:1-3
4. Depriving a person of opportunity is stealing.
 - a. The businessman's opportunity to do business. Titus 2:10
 - b. The government's opportunity to govern. Luke 20:25
 - c. The poor man's opportunity to survive. Deuteronomy 24:14-15
 - d. The suffering man's opportunity to recover. Deuteronomy 15:7-11

B. Stealing from God.

1. Contradictory behavior robs God of credibility. Jeremiah 7:1-11; Luke 19:45-46
 - a. Powerful profession.
 - b. Pitiful performance.
2. Refusing tithes and offerings robs God of honor. Malachi 3:8-10
 - a. Tithes and offerings belong to the Lord. Leviticus 27:30
 - i. The annual tithe. Deuteronomy 14:22-27
 - ii. The three yearly tithe. Deuteronomy 12:6
 - iii. The offerings for sacrifice. Deuteronomy 12:6
 - iv. The special offerings. Exodus 35:4
 - b. Failing to give is keeping what is God's.
 - i. First rate stinginess. Nehemiah 13:10; Ecclesiastes 5:13
 - ii. Second rate sacrifice. Malachi 1:6-14
 - iii. Third rate motives. Matthew 6:2; Acts 5:1-11

II. The Dangers and Damage of Stealing.

- A. Stealing may land you in trouble with the law.
- B. Stealing will ruin your relations with others.
- C. Stealing leads to deception of lies.
- D. Stealing shrivels the one who does it.
- E. Stealing places extra burdens on others.
- F. Stealing hinders the work of God.

III. The Blessings and Bounty of Quitting Stealing. Ephesians 4:28

- A. The blessings of repentance.
- B. The blessings of restitution.
- C. The blessings of hard work.
- D. The blessings of beneficial production.
- E. The blessings of giving.
- F. The blessings of being a blessing.