

## FROM STEALING TO WORKING AND GIVING

Ephesians 4.28

Central Idea: *We show our relationship with the Lord by working diligently so we can help those in need.*

Remember ...

⌘ **NEGATIVE COMMAND:** *Instead of taking what doesn't belong to us ...*

⌘ **POSITIVE COMMAND:** *we are to be hard workers ...*

⌘ **PURPOSE:** *so that we can share with those in need*

### Questions for Personal Reflection or Group Discussion

1. What was your very first job and how much did it pay?
2. We probably don't identify as thieves, but Pastor Chuck mentioned several ways people might take what doesn't belong to them. Can you add to the list?
3. What does doing an "honest day's work" look like in your current circumstances?
4. How does this passage challenge your thinking about work and its purpose?
5. Is it more natural for you to focus on earning, saving or giving? How does this verse challenge that tendency?
6. Can you think of a time when someone else's generosity met a need in your life?
7. How does this passage call us to shift our mindset about work and giving?

Community Bible Church  
Charles Tschetter, Lead Pastor

This outline is provided to assist you in understanding and applying today's message. *From Stealing to Working and Giving* is the fourth message in a series on The Changed Life from Ephesians 4.17-32. This message can be listened to or downloaded at [cbcomaha.org](http://cbcomaha.org).

A close-up, low-angle shot of a person's legs and feet as they hike on a rocky trail. The person is wearing dark, worn-in hiking boots with thick, treaded soles. They are also wearing grey, ribbed socks. The background is a blurred, rocky landscape with some sparse vegetation. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

# The Changed Life

*Walk Worthy of Your Calling*

**Ephesians 4:17-32**



# Ephesians Overview

1.1 – 3.21	4.1 – 6.9	6.10-24
Calling	Conduct	Conflict
Doctrine	Duty	Defense
Position	Practice	Power
Wealth	<b>WALK</b>	Warfare

Unity

4.1-16

**Holiness**

4.17-32

Love

5.1-6

Light

5.7-14

Wisdom

5.15-6.9

*Speaking the Truth*

*Righteous Anger*

*Working and Giving*

*Wholesome Words*

*Gracious and Forgiving*

# How the New Person in Christ Lives Day to Day

Ephesians 4	NEGATIVE Command (old self)	POSITIVE Command (new self)	REASON for Positive Command
25	Don't lie	Speak truth	Members of one another
26-27	Don't sin when angry	Be angry	Devil no opportunity
<b>28</b>	<b>Don't steal</b>	<b>Work</b>	<b>Share with those in need</b>
29-30	Don't speak rotten words	Build up with words	Grace to those who hear
31-32	Don't display sinful vices	Be gracious	God is gracious to us

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- ❖ These commands are given to believers.
- ❖ Living as these verses command becomes increasingly difficult as our society drifts from biblical moral absolutes.

# From Stealing to Working and Giving

Ephesians 4.28

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.

# From Stealing to Working and Giving

Ephesians 4.28

- NIV: He who has been stealing must steal no longer
- ESV: Let the thief no longer steal
- NRSV: Thieves must give up stealing
- NLT: If you are a thief, quit stealing.