

**Ephesians 4:28-29**  
**“How to Win Over Sin (Stealing, and the Tongue) Pt. 5”**

**Introduction**

Chapter 1-3 is who we are in Christ.

Starting in Chapter 4 is how we are to walk as Christians.

Last week we saw the 3 things Paul, by the Holy Spirit, tells us is possible as born-again believers:

1. Put off or take off the Old man
2. Renew your mind
3. Put on the New man

Remember, in verse 25-32 Paul is going to break down some specific areas and attitudes we are to have.

In verses 25-32, he breaks down 4 areas:

1. Honesty (vs. 25)
2. Anger (vs. 26-27)
3. Stealing (vs. 28)
4. The Tongue (vs. 29)

Notice what he will give us in each of these areas:

1. Negative
2. Positive
3. The reason why

**We will discover the answer to overcoming all these obstacles is the work of the Holy Spirit.**

**Don't forget God never gives us a command that He has not already made a way for us to carry out those commands, by His grace.**

**Quote:**

**“With God's commands are also His enablement's.”**

- In your flesh, these things cannot be done!
- But by the power of the Holy Spirit all things are possible!!

**Now today we pick up in verse 28:**

**4:28 Put off, “stealing”....Put on, “personal work ethic” and Put on, “giving to those in need”**

**Eph 4:28**

28 Let him who 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.

## A. Him who stole steal no longer

At first we see the obvious description of stealing.

### 1. Not stealing in the work place

People often feel that they are not getting paid enough.

- Stealing with bad work habits.
- And actual stealing items to compensate for lack of wages.

#### Titus 2:9-10

9 Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back,

10 **not pilfering**, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.

### 2. Being unwilling to work is also sin.

Stealing by being unwilling to work and support yourself and being a burden on others.

#### 2 Thess 3:6-12

6 But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.

7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you;

8 nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you,

9 not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us.

10 For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: **if anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.**

11 For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies.

12 Now those who are such we command and exhort **through our Lord Jesus Christ** that **they work in quietness and eat their own bread.**

#### 1 Tim 5:8

8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is **worse than an unbeliever.**

### 3. Taxes

I am not saying don't work the legal system of paying taxes, but I am saying don't try to illegally get out of paying taxes.

**Matt 22:21**

21 They said to Him, "Caesar's." And He said to them, "**Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's**, and to God the things that are God's."

**4. Tithes and offerings****Matt 22:21**

21 They said to Him, "Caesar's." And He said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, **and to God the things that are God's**."

**Mal 3:8-10**

8 "Will a man rob God?  
Yet you have robbed Me!  
But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?'  
In tithes and offerings.  
9 You are cursed with a curse,  
For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation.  
10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse,  
That there may be food in My house,  
And try Me now in this,"  
Says the LORD of hosts,  
"If I will not open for you the windows of heaven  
And pour out for you such blessing  
That there will not be room enough to receive it.

**B. rather let him labor, working with his hands**

Paul would say let us labor as unto the Lord.

**Eph 6:6-8**

6 not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, 7 with good will doing service, **as to the Lord, and not to men**, 8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, **he will receive the same from the Lord**,

**Note:** (overworking is also sin)

**Ps 127:2**

2 **It is vain for you to rise up early,**  
**To sit up late,**  
To eat the bread of sorrows;  
For so He gives His beloved sleep.

**Prov 23:4-5**

4 **Do not overwork to be rich;**  
Because of your own understanding, cease!  
5 Will you set your eyes on that which is not?  
**For riches certainly make themselves wings;**

**They fly away like an eagle toward heaven.**

**C. that he may have something to give him who has need**

Do not be a “taking person”, but be a “giving person”.

**Prov 11:24-25**

24 **There is one who scatters, yet increases more;**

And there is one who withholds more than is right,  
But it leads to poverty.

25 The generous soul will be made rich,  
And he who waters will also be watered himself.

**Prov 19:17**

17 He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD,  
And He will pay back what he has given.

**Prov 21:26** But the righteous gives and does not spare.

**Prov 22:9** He who has a generous eye will be blessed,

**Notice:**

1. negative – **don't steal**
2. positive – **rather let him labor, working with our own hands what is good**
3. the reason why – **that we may have something to give him who has need**

**4:29 Put off, “speaking corruptly”....Put on, “talking less” and “only use words that edify”**

**Eph 4:29**

29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

**A. Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth**

By nature (sinful nature) our mouth is set to be corrupt.

**Corrupt:**

Greek word (sapos) – corrupt, bad, rotten (bad fruit, worthless), putrefied.

Paul will elaborate in Ch. 5:

**Eph 5:4**

4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

Describing the “nature of all men” before they believe:

**Rom 3:13-14**

13 "Their throat is an open tomb;

With their **tongues they have practiced deceit**";

"The **poison of asps is under their lips**";  
 14 "Whose **mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.**"

### **James 3:6-10**

6 **And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity.** The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. 7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. 8 But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. 10 Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.

### **Matt 12:34-37**

34 Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? **For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.**  
 35 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.  
 36 But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.  
 37 **For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.**"

## **B. but what is good for necessary edification**

Controlling the tongue will be the hardest of all parts of our flesh to overcome.

### **James tells us about the tongue:**

#### **James 3:2**

2 For we all stumble in many things. **If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.**

#### **James 1:26**

26 If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and **does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart,** this one's religion is useless.

### **David prayed about this:**

#### **Ps 141:3**

3 Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth;  
 Keep watch over the door of my lips.

### **We should all purpose in our hearts to do 2 things:**

#### **James 1:19**

19 So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, **slow to speak,** slow to wrath;

**1 Peter 4:11**

11 **If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God.**

**How good it is to speak those words in the exact right moment!!!!**

Psalms says:

**Ps 71:8**

8 Let my mouth be filled with Your praise  
And with Your glory all the day.

Proverbs says:

**Prov 15:23**

23 A man has joy by the answer of his mouth,  
And **a word spoken in due season, how good it is!**

**Prov 25:11**

11 **A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold  
In settings of silver.**

**Note:** (not speaking when you should is also not wise)

**Ecc 3:1**

1 To everything there is a season,  
A time for every purpose under heaven:

**Ecc 3:7b**.. A time to keep silence, **And a time to speak;**

**C. that it may impart grace to the hearers.**

The graciousness of graceful words.

The multitudes spoke about Jesus' words:

**Luke 4:22**

22 So **all bore witness** to Him, and **marveled at the gracious (i.e. grace filled) words which proceeded out of His mouth.** And they said, "Is this not Joseph's son?"

May our words be the same:

**Col 4:6**

6 Let your **speech always be with GRACE, seasoned with salt,** that **you may know how you ought to answer each one.**

**Notice:**

1. negative - **no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth**
2. positive – **but words that bring edification**
3. the reason why - **that it may impart grace to the hearers**

<b>Conclusion</b>
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