

**Don't Steal: Labor – So You Can Give to Those in Need (Eph 4:28)**

- First: negative What not to do: – **“Let him who stole,”**
- Second: positive- What we must do: **Steal no longer**
- Third: the reason for not doing one and doing the other:  
**“but rather let him labor, working with *his* hands what is good”**

I. What not to do: Let Him Who Stole Steal no Longer (4: 28a)

- Prohibition is clear **“no longer be stealing”** present active continuous
- Exodus 20:15 – the act of stealing, vs 17 coveting – the heart of stealing
- Stealing, theft, are synonymous with the character of Satan (John 10:10)
- Stealing: lawlessness, anarchy, everyone for self, out & out selfishness
- Stealing destroys unity, there can be no fellowship unless it is rooted out

II. What to Do: Steal No Longer (4:28b)

- Paul uses a strong word to describe “labor” fatigue/ point of exhaustion
- Paul set the believers an example of hard work/ labor (Acts 20: 34)
- God calls us to live dignified lives not like sluggards, leeches or parasites
- Prov 14:23; 2 Thess 3:10-12; 1 Thess 4:10-12; Prov 14:24; 21:25,26
- Labor is good because God is always at work, God is always giving

III. Rather let him labor, working with *his* hands what is good (4:28c)

- Jesus himself teaches us: “It is more blessed to give than it is to receive
- Laboring to give – is the way of love – “For God so loved...He gave”
- 2 Cor 8: 9; Phil 2: 6-8; Warning to those who steal: 1 Cor 6:9