

LIVING A LIFE OF INTEGRITY

1. Make a living _____

- ***Ephesians 4:28 (NLT)*** *If you are a thief, stop stealing. Begin using your hands for honest work, and then give generously to others in need.*

2. Give God my full _____

- ***Malachi 3:10 (CEV)*** *I am the LORD All-Powerful, and I challenge you to put me to the test. Bring the entire ten percent into the storehouse, so there will be food in my house. Then I will open the windows of heaven and flood you with blessing after blessing.*

3. Make restitution when _____

- ***Luke 19:8-10 (NLT)*** ⁸ *Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have overcharged people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!"* ⁹ *Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a son of Abraham."* ¹⁰ *And I, the Son of Man, have come to seek and save those like him who are lost."*

*You are cordially invited to join us for **The Re-Wedding** on Sunday Evening, July 30 at 6:30, as dozens of couples renew their marriage vows in the biggest wedding in the history of Saint John.*

Ten Habits of Highly Healthy Homes

**Examine Your
Priorities**

**Avoid The
Counterfeits**

Take God Seriously

**Renew Your
Relationships**

**Respect Your
Heritage**

**Value The
Individual**

**Protect Your
Marriage**

**Maintain Your
Integrity**

Speak The Truth

**Discover Real
Contentment**

10 HABITS *of Highly Healthy Homes*



Habit 8: Maintain Your Integrity

Sunday, July 16, 2000

Exodus 20:15 (NLT) Do not steal.

- The Hebrew phrase "**lo t'gahnaf**" in the eight commandment means that we are not to _____ or to _____. In other words, it refers to an action that is kept hidden from the owner of whatever is being taken – because they would not permit it if they knew about it!

ACQUIRING "BY THE BOOK"

- While the Bible forbids stealing, which is the ILLEGITIMATE acquisition of possessions, it allows and even encourages us to acquire possessions in LEGITIMATE ways:

1. DILIGENT _____

- ***Ephesians 4:28 (CEV)*** *If you are a thief, quit stealing. Be honest and work hard, so you will have something to give to people in need.*

2. WISE _____ OR _____

- ***Matthew 25:29 (NLT)*** *To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who are unfaithful, even what little they have will be taken away.*

3. FAITHFUL _____

- ***Matthew 6:32-33 (NLT)*** ³² *Why be like the pagans who are so deeply concerned about these things? Your heavenly Father already knows all your needs,* ³³ *and he will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern.*

• **Three principles to remember when praying for possessions:**

A. There is more to life than _____.

- **Matthew 16:26 (NLT)** *And how do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul in the process? Is anything worth more than your soul?*

B. We must pray with the right _____.

- **James 4:3 (NLT)** *And even when you do ask, you don't get it because your whole motive is wrong — you want only what will give you pleasure.*

C. We must store up treasures in _____

as well as on earth.

- **Luke 12:21 (NLT)** *Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.*

EIGHT WAYS THAT WE STEAL

1. Deceiving _____

- **Amos 8:5b (GN)** *You overcharge, use false measures, and fix the scales to cheat the customers.*

2. Defrauding _____

- **Colossians 3:23 (NLT)** *Work hard and cheerfully at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.*

3. Delaying _____

- **Leviticus 19:13 (NLT)** *Do not cheat or rob anyone. Always pay your hired workers promptly.*

4. Defaulting _____

- **Psalms 37:21 (NLT)** *The wicked borrow and never repay, but the godly are generous givers.*

5. Deceiving _____

- **Romans 13:6-7 (CEV)** ⁶ *You must also pay your taxes. The authorities are God's servants, and it is their duty to take care of these matters.* ⁷ *Pay all that you owe, whether it is taxes and fees or respect and honor.*

6. Depending _____

- **Isaiah 65:11b-12a (CEV)** ^{11b} *What will happen to you for offering food and wine to the gods you call "Good Luck" and "Fate"?* ^{12a} *Your luck will end!*

7. Deserting _____

- **2 Thessalonians 3:10-12 (NLT)** ¹⁰ *Even while we were with you, we gave you this rule: "Whoever does not work should not eat."* ¹¹ *Yet we hear that some of you are living idle lives, refusing to work and wasting time meddling in other people's business.* ¹² *In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we appeal to such people — no, we command them: Settle down and get to work. Earn your own living.*

8. Defrauding _____

- **Malachi 3:8 (CEV)** *You people are robbing me, your God. And, here you are, asking, "How are we robbing you?" You are robbing me of the offerings and of the ten percent that belongs to me.*

FOUR REASONS WHY I SHOULD BE HONEST

1. I am being watched by _____

- **Job 34:21-22 (NLT)** ²¹ *For God carefully watches the way people live; he sees everything they do.* ²² *No darkness is thick enough to hide the wicked from his eyes.*
- **Proverbs 20:7 (LB)** *It is a wonderful heritage to have an honest father.*
- **Matthew 5:16** *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

2. I will reap whatever I _____

- **Galatians 6:7 (NLT)** *Don't be misled. Remember that you can't ignore God and get away with it. You will always reap what you sow!*
- **Proverbs 15:27 (GN)** *Try to make a profit dishonestly and you'll get your family in trouble.*
- **Proverbs 21:6 (LB)** *Dishonest gain will never last, so why take the risk?*

3. Dishonesty damages my _____

- **Proverbs 10:2 (GN)** *Wealth you get by dishonesty will do you no good, but honesty can save your life.*
- **Proverbs 19:1 (NLT)** *It is better to be poor and honest than to be a fool and dishonest.*

4. God will reward my _____

- **Proverbs 28:20 (GN)** *Honest people will lead a full, happy life but if you are in a hurry to get rich you are going to be punished.*
- **Matthew 25:21 (NLT)** *The master was full of praise. "Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!"*