

---

**SERMON NOTES June 26, 2022**

---

**Today's notes also available at [CCPL.life/Connect](http://CCPL.life/Connect)**

---

**Ephesians 4:28  
Greed or Generosity  
Pastor Mike**

1. Taking off the action of \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. The problem of stealing in \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. The problem of stealing in \_\_\_\_\_
2. Taking off the character of \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Our belief about \_\_\_\_\_ of security and happiness
  - b. A greedy heart will \_\_\_\_\_ people to \_\_\_\_\_
3. Putting on the action of \_\_\_\_\_

The two purposes of work:

- a. Responsible \_\_\_\_\_ for meeting needs
- b. The \_\_\_\_\_

Our work is a way of \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_

4. Putting on the character of \_\_\_\_\_

A generous heart uses \_\_\_\_\_ to serve \_\_\_\_\_

5. The \_\_\_\_\_ of a generous heart

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. Ephesians 4:28 calls us to take off the action of stealing, identifying theft as a behavior that defines the unbelieving world around us. Every study on the subject reveals that theft of every kind has increased by at alarming rates over the past 40 years in our country and is now a problem of epidemic proportions. What do you think has changed in our society that has resulted in theft becoming such a problem?
2. Paul is speaking to believers, and says, *“let the thief no longer steal,”* assuming that there are people in the church who are guilty of stealing. Where there forms of stealing that were brought up in this morning’s message that you never considered as theft before?
  - a. Were there any types of stealing that you may have engaged in the past (or in the present) which God has convicted you as being a violation of this command? What changes do you need to make in those areas?
  - b. Are there forms of stealing that are widely considered OK, even my most Christians?
  - c. Why do you think there are so many actions that should be properly defined as a form of stealing, but that our culture has accepted as innocent?
3. In his message, Pastor Mike taught that the heart attitude behind the action of stealing is greed. We believe things will bring security and happiness, and our life becomes defined by the pursuit of things. As a result, we will use people in our pursuit of money or possessions. Can a person have the character of greed without realizing it? Explain your answer. If the answer is yes, can you have this heart attitude without realizing it?
4. God calls us to take off the action of stealing, and to put on the action of laboring with our hands, doing work that is good – work that is morally good and beneficial.
  - a. Part of the purpose of work is earning an income. While this is important, Pastor Mike argued that this is an incomplete view of work. What are some dangers of seeing work only as a ‘necessary evil’ in the pursuit of money?
  - b. God calls us all see our work as a calling, doing something that isn’t just a necessary evil to make money, but seeing it as something that is good – a way that we serve God and our culture. What would it look like to see your work in this way?
  - c. It is common in some Christian circles to see jobs in full-time church ministry as ‘serving God,’ in a way that contrasts with jobs in secular employment that believers do. Pastor Mike argued that this is an unbiblical view. Why is this wrong?
5. Ephesians 4:28 seems to teach that we are either greedy, valuing things over people and God, or we are generous, valuing God and people over things. There is no middle.
  - a. Do you agree with this, that all people are at their core either greedy or generous in their heart? Explain your answer.
  - b. Will a generous heart always be generous in action? Why or why not? If we are not generous with others in our action, does that always reveal a greedy heart? Explain your answer.
  - c. Pastor Mike ended his message talking about the blessings of a generous heart. What are the blessings of a generous heart?