

white flag

Small Group Questions: Part 3: Stealing

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Read

Ephesians 4:28, Leviticus 19:13, Proverbs 3:27

Reflect

In the first two weeks of the White Flag series, we talked about lying and anger. Those are two things that we all know we have been guilty of at some point in our lives. This week is a bit different: we are talking about stealing. Some of us might protest, "I'm not a thief – I've never stolen anything before!" That might be partially true. Maybe you've never stolen from a convenience store, or from your parents. But there are other kinds of theft. Have you ever withheld affection from a spouse, or praise from a child, even though you knew you shouldn't? Stealing is as much a part of our lives as anger; the key is knowing how to recognize it.

Pastor Greg looked at three commands that Paul taught concerning theft:

1. Stop stealing
 - a. As we pointed out above, there are many kinds of stealing. What are some common ways that we steal? Why do you think that we don't really label them as "theft"?
 - b. What are some ways that people justify stealing? For example: from the office, pirated software/music/movies?
2. Work hard
 - a. Paul doesn't just want people to stop stealing, he also wants them to work hard. It isn't enough to simply stop a behavior, we must replace it with something good. Why do you think that working hard is the natural remedy for stealing?
3. Give generously
 - a. God wants us to work hard but not just so that we won't steal! He wants us to give generously, which is why stealing is so wrong – it is as far away from generosity as you can get.
 - b. Reflect on Ephesians 4:28. What are some areas in your life where you need to stop stealing? What would it look like for you to work hard and give generously in those areas instead?

What was your biggest take-away from the weekend message?

Respond

- What do you feel like God is asking you to do in response to the weekend message? What is your next step?
- How can your Small Group support you and hold you accountable in this?