

changeable

From Stealing to Sharing

Ephesians 4:28

	Remove	Replace	Reason
25	falsehood	truth	we are members
26-27	unrighteous anger	righteous anger/peace	no opportunity for the devil
28	stealing	working	share with needy
29-30	corrupting talk	edifying words	give grace/not grieve Holy Spirit
31-32	unforgiveness	kindness	God in Christ forgave you

1. Remove "Let the thief no longer steal"

steal = _____

Timeless realities about stealing:

- Stealing is incompatible with God's kingdom.

You shall not steal. Exodus 20:15

Thieves . . . will not inherit the kingdom of God. I Corinthians 6:10

- Stealing reflects a heart that is serving self rather than loving others.

The commandments... "You shall not murder, you shall not steal" ...and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor. Romans 13:9-10

2. Replace "but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands"

labor = _____

honest = _____

Timeless realities about work:

- God works.
God rested from all His work that He had done in creation. *Genesis 3:3*

My Father is always at His work to this very day, and I too am working. *John 5:17*

- God has designed people to work.
And the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.
Genesis 2:15

Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. *Exodus 20:9-10*

3. **Reason** "so that he may have something to share with anyone in need."

share = shift in _____

anyone in need = shift in _____

Timeless realities about sharing:

- True love is not works but actions
If anyone has this world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Let us not love in word or talk, but in deed and in truth.
1 John 3:17-18

The Christian philosophy of labour is thus lifted far above the thought of what is right or fair in the economic field; giving becomes the motive for getting. Francis Foulkes

Deeper motivation (Ephesians 5:1-2): _____

Daily challenge: _____