

Am I a Thief?

Because stealing other people's property is so common these days, we might think that we know all about theft – but do we?

It is, in fact, possible for us to engage in all kinds of theft ourselves, without even realising it!

First, we can steal honour from other people. This happens, of course, when we don't give our parents the respect that is due to them. Or when we steal another person's reputation by spreading rumours and false-hoods.

Second, we may rob another of innocence by pressuring him or her into wrongdoing – it happens when we steal the intimacy that belongs to another man's wife or another woman's husband.

Third, we can steal information by cheating, or by taking credit for something that rightly should be some-one else's.

Fourth, we may even steal from ourselves – or our families – by foolishly wasting our resources. Or we may rob ourselves of the peace and forgiveness which God offers us, simply by turning our back Him.

Fifth, and most important of all, we always honour manufacturers who produce quality goods, and make sure to tell others about who supplied the product, don't we?

But do we rob God of that honour – the One who created us?

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GOOD NEWS IN BRIEF

The Bible says, "*Let him who stole steal no longer*" **Ephesians**

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