

## **Is private ownership unchristian?**

The right to private ownership of property was codified in the ten commandments.

"God issued this edict . . . you must not be envious of your neighbour's house . . . Or want to own his slaves, oxen, donkeys, or anything else he has." Exodus 20.1, 17 (Living Bible).

And Jesus' Good Samaritan story is an interesting commentary on the use of personal resources. Luke 10.30-35.

**First**, thieves assaulted a traveller, stripped him, and left him half dead. Their philosophy was, "What's yours is ours, if we can get hold of it!".

**Second**, a priest came on the scene but offered no help. He might get blood on his priestly robes. His world view was, "What is mine is mine!"

**Third**, a Levite also walked straight past. When his Temple duties ceased, his earnings ceased, therefore his service to God ceased!. His attitude was, "What is mine is yours - if you can pay me for it."

**Fourth**, the Good Samaritan's philosophy was, "What I have is really God's, which I should share with those in need." Nothing unchristian about his use of private goods!

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