

How to Walk Honestly: 19 Practices Regarding Money

Exodus 20:15 & Deuteronomy 5:19

1. **Make God's agenda your highest priority**

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness... (Matt 6:33a)

2. **Trust God to give you what you need**

and all these things shall be added to you. (Matt 6:33b)

3. **Focus on things that last forever**

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. (Matt 6:19-20)

4. **Give God's part to His Work** (*Notice the conditional promises...*)

Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, "In what way have we robbed You?" In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, [Even] this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you [such] blessing That [there will] not [be room] enough [to receive it.]" And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field," Says the LORD of hosts; "And all nations will call you blessed, For you will be a delightful land," Says the LORD of hosts. (Mal 3:8-12)

Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. For even in Thessalonica you sent [aid] once and again for my necessities. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things [sent] from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. (Phil 4:15-19)

5. **Avoid the "receiver" mentality**

For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you; nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us. For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread. (2 Thes 3:7-12)

6. **Practice contentment (be happy with what you have)**

Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into [this] world, [and it is] certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. (1 Tim 6:6-10)

But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. (Phil 4:10-13)

7. **Don't seek to justify any stealing – all stealing is wrong**

[People] do not despise a thief If he steals to satisfy himself when he is starving. (Prov 6:30)

8. **Restore what you have stolen**

If a man steals an ox or a sheep, and slaughters it or sells it, he shall restore five oxen for an ox and four sheep for a sheep. (Ex 22:1)

9. **Live to benefit others, not yourself (work to give, not to get)**

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have [it] more abundantly. (John 10:10)

Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with [his] hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. (Eph 4:28)

10. **Understand your capacity to steal**

Lest I be full and deny [You,] And say, "Who [is] the LORD?" Or lest I be poor and steal, And profane the name of my God. (Prov 30:9)

11. **Prepare your own sermons**

"Therefore behold, I [am] against the prophets," says the LORD, "who steal My words every one from his neighbor." (Jer 23:30)

12. **Don't shirk your obligations in any area**

Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes [are due,] customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor. (Rom 13:7)

13. **Promptly pay what you owe**

You shall not cheat your neighbor, nor rob [him.] The wages of him who is hired shall not remain with you all night until morning. (Lev 19:13)

14. **Don't take advantage of people's difficult circumstances**

Do not rob the poor because he [is] poor, Nor oppress the afflicted at the gate (Prov 22:22) (cf. Isa 10:2)

15. **Don't abuse relationship connections ("family" as excuse)**

Whoever robs his father or his mother, And says, "[It is] no transgression," The same [is] companion to a destroyer. (Prov 28:24)

16. **Avoid the temptation to cut corners**

Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. (John 10:1)

17. **Pay your own bills (live within your means)**

I robbed other churches, taking wages [from them] to minister to you. (2 Cor 11:8)

18. **Do honest & fair business**

You shall do no injustice in judgment, in measurement of length, weight, or volume. You shall have honest scales, honest weights, an honest ephah, and an honest hin: I [am] the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt. (Lev 19:35-36; cf. Deut 25:13-15; Prov 11:1; 16:1; 20:10; 20:23)

19. **Work a full day's work (& work for God!)**

[Exhort] bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all [things,] not answering back, not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things. (Titus 2:9-10; cf. Eph 6:5-8; Col 3:22)

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