

Christians Respect What Belongs to Others

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Chapter 23**.

❖ The way we treat a person's property reflects how we treat the person. We are to respect others, so we should respect the property of others.

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❖ The Seventh and Tenth Commandments teach us to respect the property of others and to be satisfied with what we have.

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❖ The Seventh Commandment says "You shall not steal." This means we should respect what belongs to someone else.

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❖ When you make up for something you stole or damaged, you make restitution. We must make up for wrongs with restitution. If something stolen cannot be returned or replaced, we must find another way to make up for the injustice.

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❖ The Tenth Commandment says "You shall not covet your neighbor's goods." When you covet what belongs to others, you resent the fact that they have more than you or something better. This leads to envy.

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❖ God created the goods of the earth for all to share. Greed is the desire to have more than our fair share.

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❖ In the parable of the rich fool, a farmer had a good harvest. He could have shared, but he tried to find ways to keep all the extra wheat. He thought the goods of the earth belonged to him.

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❖ In a just world, the strong would work to make life better for the weak. All people would be respected and their needs met. Jesus wants all Christians to work to make a more just world.

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❖ All people deserve a share of God's creation. The faithful have a duty to justly distribute the goods of the earth to everyone.

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❖ God created the earth—its resources and people. All people deserve a fair share of that creation. People have a right to live with dignity.

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