

Q & A Sunday - May 27, 2018 - Keith Carroll

Question: If I committed a crime before I was saved, do I report it now?

Restitution-The act of restoring anything to its rightful owner, or of making good, or of giving an equivalent for any loss, damage, or injury; indemnification. The act of returning to, or recovering, a former state;

Zaccheus .. Luke 19:1-10 1 Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 And there was a man called Zaccheus; he was a chief tax collector [a superintendent to whom others reported], and he was rich. 3 Zaccheus was trying to see who Jesus was, but he could not see because of the crowd, for he was short in stature. 4 So he ran on ahead [of the crowd] and climbed up in a sycamore tree in order to see Him, for He was about to pass through that way. 5 When Jesus reached the place, He looked up and said to him, “Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house.” 6 So Zaccheus hurried and came down, and welcomed Jesus with joy. 7 When the people saw it, they all *began* muttering [in discontent], “He has gone to be the guest of a man who is a [notorious] sinner.” 8 Zaccheus stopped and said to the Lord, “See, Lord, I am [now] giving half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anyone out of anything, I will give back four times as much.” 9 Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this household, because he, too, is a son of Abraham, for the Son of Man has come to seek and save that which was lost.

Exodus 22:1 “If a man steals an ox or sheep and kills or sells it, he shall make restitution of five oxen for an ox or four sheep for a sheep.

Ephesians 4:28 “The thief [who has become a believer] must no longer steal, but instead he must work hard [making an honest living], producing that which is good with his own hands, so that he will have something to share with those in need.”

Apply the Golden rule -To treat others the way we would want to be treated.

We must remember we are forgiven of our past. We are new creatures in Christ. We have been redeemed by The blood of Jesus.

We may have done many things before have become Christian's it may be impossible to make restitution for everything we have done but, we must try to make things right as much as possible. If God is convicting, you or you have a guilty conscience, you probably need to confess it and clear your conscience and make things right, We're not talking about condemnation, we are no longer under condemnation, but if you are being convicted by His Spirit to make something right, you should do the right thing as much as possible, and make restitution if God is leading you by His Spirit to do so.