

# “Stolen by Success”

## 3 BIG LIES

I am what I have.

I am what I do.

I am what people say about me.

What a man desires, what a woman desires, is unfailing love.

Ecclesiastes 4:4 NLT

Then I observed that most people are motivated to success because they envy their neighbors. But this, too, is meaningless—like chasing the wind.

Mark 8:36 NLT

And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?

Seek First, God

Exodus 20:3-5 NLT

“You must not have any other god but me. “You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations of those who reject me.

Culture’s Wisdom

Image

Idolatry = the worship of anything other than God

Identity

Luke 18:18 NLT

Once a religious leader asked Jesus this question: “Good Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?”

Luke 18:20 NLT

But to answer your question, you know the commandments: ‘You must not commit adultery. You must not murder. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. Honor your father and mother.’”

Luke 18:21 NLT

The man replied, “I’ve obeyed all these commandments since I was young.”

Mark 10:21-22 NLT

Looking at the man, Jesus felt genuine love for him. “There is still one thing you haven’t done,” he told him. “Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” At this the man’s face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions.

God’s **Wisdom**

**Identity**

Colossians 1:16b NLT

Everything was created *through* him and *for* him.

1 John 3:1 NLT

See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don’t recognize that we are God’s children because they don’t know him.

**Intimacy** with God

James 4:8 NLT

Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.

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## **Reflect** His Image

Ephesians 3:16-19 NLT

I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand (to grasp), as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

**Title** that defines who you are.

John 21:20 NLT

Peter turned around and saw behind them the disciple Jesus loved—

Ephesians 2:10 NLT

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Galatians 6:4-5 MSG

Make a careful exploration of who you are and the work you have been given, and then sink yourself into that. Don't be impressed with yourself. Don't compare yourself with others. Each of you must take responsibility for doing the creative best you can with your own life.

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