

# *The Professor's Theological Home Page*

"...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved..." (Acts 16:31)

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## **The Criminal Mind – Part 1**

**By Mario Velez**

There was a report on click2Houston.com about a robbing incident in Houston involving four individuals. Investigators found out about these individuals because the suspects were bragging about the robbery on Facebook. The question that the average law-abiding citizen might ask would be why would these individuals rob a bank and brag about it?

Let us begin by examining one place in the Bible that teaches that criminal behavior is wrong in the Epistle of Ephesians 4:28:

Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with *his* hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. (KJV Eph. 4:28)

That Paul was writing to the Ephesian believers shows us that a Christian can degenerate morally to the point of stealing. As a result, Paul teaches that a believer should work by doing something useful to the benefit of others. In sharp contrast, the thief takes from others for his own benefit, as the report above clearly shows.

Another illustration from this report is that the criminal mind has an immense ego, to the point of bragging about their criminal behavior. In addition, the preoccupation of the criminal mind is with self and is subjective, arrogant and immature. As a result, all the relationships in the life of a criminal will be superficial, self-centered and irresponsible as well. You see, a criminal has no allegiance to the institutions of marriage, family or government. Therefore, with such a mindset, actions that might seem senseless to a non-criminal are perfectly normal to the arrogant criminal.

Yet, are criminals that way because they come from a broken home or because of having a childhood of poverty? We will examine the credibility of some of these viewpoints in part 2 of this article, tune in for more!