

## Hosea 4:2-3

### What's Wrong with Crime?

*By swearing and lying, killing and stealing and committing adultery, they break all restraint, with bloodshed upon bloodshed. Therefore the land will mourn, and everyone who dwells there will waste away with the beasts of the field and the birds of the air; even the fish of the sea will be taken away.*

What's wrong with crime? That's a simple question with a lot of answers. In today's world, however, crime and sin can be two different things. Sin such as killing and stealing are obviously crimes. Swearing and committing adultery, while not necessarily crimes, are certainly sinful. So the better question might be, "What's wrong with sin?"

According to the Bible, sin not only destroys individuals but it destroys the natural world around us. I'm reminded of Jesus' comment in Luke 16:10, "He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much." If I am faithful in the things that pertain to me, like guarding myself from sinful living, then I will be a better steward of the larger things that pertain to the good of mankind, like practicing conservation in a world that touches all of us everyday. The only way we can do this is to confess our sin to Jesus, receive His forgiveness, and confess JESUS IS LORD. Every faithful steward has taken this step. It's what makes us a Christian.

For the Christian outdoorsman, stewardship of our natural resources should be one of many natural expressions of our Christian walk. Think about how active you are in practicing conservation. What will you do to make your activity more effective?

**TIP:** Recycle your outdoor magazines by giving them to children, senior adults, and soldiers; or give them away at outdoor events you attend or organize.

Hosea 4:2-3 (Study Guide)

What's Wrong with Crime?

HOOK

1. Write your personal definition of crime.

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2. Describe the difference between conservation and environmentalism.

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3. List three natural resources and in your view, briefly explain how each should be managed.

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In today's world, crime and sin can be two different things. Sin such as killing and stealing are obviously crimes. Swearing and committing adultery, while not necessarily crimes, are certainly sinful. The better question might be, "What's wrong with sin?"

Sin not only destroys individuals but it destroys the natural world around us. If we are faithful in the things that pertain to me, like guarding myself from sinful living, then I will be a better steward of the larger things that pertain to the good of mankind, like practicing conservation in a world that touches all of us everyday. The only way we can do this is to confess our sin to Jesus, receive His forgiveness, and confess JESUS IS LORD. Every faithful steward has taken this step. It's what makes us a Christian.

Stewardship of our natural resources is one of many expressions of our Christian walk.

Think about how active you are in practicing conservation. What will you do to make your activity more effective and Bible-centered?

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Have you received Christ's forgiveness and confessed JESUS IS LORD? If not, do so now! Confess to Him that you are a sinner and then confess Jesus is Lord. Now, everyone, write a prayer of thanksgiving for what He has done for you.

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SINKER

Take a few minutes to write your thoughts on this devotional. Reflect on your own experiences.

Key words:     crime                     sin                     conservation

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