



FINANCES

3.3

Each member demonstrates a healthy relationship with money.

MONEY IS THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL, RIGHT?

Isn't that what the Bible says? Actually, no. The Bible has a lot to say about money, but it doesn't say that. What it does say is that the *love of money* is the root of all kinds of evil, a very important distinction.

1 Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

Matthew 6:24 “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

MONEY IS A TOOL.

Money is morally neutral.

Our perspective on money is important. Money, when seen appropriately, is an important tool in our society. It is the way we get paid for our work, it is the way we pay for the things we need to live, and it is a way for us to care for others. We live in a society that uses money as the tender for all of the economic transactions needed for our way of life. Money, by itself is morally neutral; it is not good or evil. Just like a hammer or pencil, it is a valuable tool to be used in appropriate ways, but it is no more than that.

Unfortunately, it can also become a source of sin if we hold it in higher regard than we should when we start to “love” it. Or when we see it can be used for sinful gain, in possessions, power, control, etc. The Bible calls this greed, and warns us against this kind of love. So money is a tool that can bless or curse.

Q. Honestly, what has your relationship with money been like up until now?

OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD MONEY CAN BLESS OR ENSLAVE US.

Matthew 6:24 “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

So who is your master? This scripture comes from the Sermon on the Mount, one of Jesus most famous, and it's part of a series of questions He's asking and answering. What is your motivation to give? What is your motivation to fast? To save? To pray? Are you doing it for God's attention or for something else? Do you trust God with all these things or not? Who is your master?

When we look at money, our desires and fears can become our masters, our idols. When we hoard money or the things money can get us, we are saying “these **things**, not God, give me what I need.” This can be a big temptation in business, because so much of what we do includes a money exchange. We can start to look at money as the measure of our success and this feeds our pride. As Proverbs says:

Proverbs 30:7-9 Two things I ask of you; deny them not to me before I die: (8) Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, (9) lest I be full and deny you and say, “Who is the LORD?” or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God.

But Jesus warns us that this leads to bondage, and enslavement to the love of money. This is not success, as it will ultimately steal your devotion to God and therefore your freedom and peace. The love of money enslaves us.

“THE MARKETPLACE IS NOT OUR PROVIDER, STOP BREATHING AND YOU'LL DIE, BUT DOES THAT MEAN YOU EXIST TO BREATHE? NO, THERE'S A HIGHER PURPOSE THAN THAT. DOES YOUR BUSINESS EXIST TO MAKE MONEY? NO, THERE'S A HIGHER PURPOSE THAN THAT.”

- CASEY BREWER, KINGDOM AT WORK

Your business has to make money to survive, but that's not why you exist. God has a higher idea for your business than just making money.

Read Matthew 25:14-30.

Q. If God is our master, then how can we look at money?

OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD MONEY WILL BLESS OR CURSE OTHERS.

Q. If we have a love of money, how might that affect our relationships in our business?

Q. How would our relationships change if we were free to love God instead of money?

SUMMARY

We understand God owns everything and He is our provider, which makes us stewards of His provision. Therefore, we will maintain an appropriate (minimum) level of personal and business debt. Personally, we will live within our means and will exemplify generosity. We will keep the business financially healthy, functioning with a heart of generosity without threatening its financial integrity. Greed is not tolerated. Money is seen and used as a tool for the company's health and to achieve relational goals, during economic upturns or downturns. Additionally, a mature member finds ways to bless God and those around them with the generous financial influence they have been given.

LEADERSHIP CONNECTION

You lead through your examples and how you approach money is a big example. Let your leadership model a healthy attitude toward money as a tool to get bigger things done. Let it be a tool for the flourishing of others.

RESOURCES FOR NEXT STEPS

- **Read**

Managing Your Money by Larry Burkett

<https://www.christianbook.com/manage-depth-bible-study-personal-finances/larry-burkett/9780802414779/pd/241477?event=AFF&p=1011693&>