

I. The Problem With Money (The Deceitfulness of Riches - Mark 4:13-20)

*As with most couples our misconceptions about money have resulted in us making numerous financial errors over the years each of which has cost us a degree of our peace and joy. *(misunderstanding and misuse of money is likely to be the single most significant cause of marital discord.)*

A. In order for money to be a blessing and not a curse it must be "gripped" properly.

B. The Bible is the instructional manual for correcting the flaws in "our game".

II. Two Extremes in Theology - "God ordains me to be:"

A. Healthy, wealthy, and wise (the name it and claim it gang)

vs.

B. Piously Poor

III. What We Need Is A Biblical Balance (Romans 12:1-2) - Transformed Thinking

A. Sophrosune - soundness of mind; perfect balance

B. Our Goal - As husband and wife to "walk in the Spirit" regarding four critical financial areas.

*** Walking in the Spirit (or having the mind of Christ) = Knowledge + Obedience**

IV. MAKING MONEY

A. Abraham - a Godly "heavy hitter" (Gen. 14:17-24)

1. gave to God's anointed vs. 20

2. acknowledged God as the owner of all things vs. 22

3. spurned evil affiliation vs. 23

4. met the needs of others vs. 24

*** God's response - Gen. 25:8
(Abraham's epitaph)**

B. Biblical Principals For Earning a Living

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1. God, not man, is my real source. (Matt. 6:33, Ps. 127:2)
2. My only real identity is found as a disciple of Christ not in my job description. (2 Cor. 5:9, Jere. 9:23-24)
3. I honor God by working diligently and attaining to the potential He has given me. (Col. 3:23, Prov. 18:9, Prov. 22:29)
4. Integrity and compassion are of greater importance than material success. (Ps. 62:10, Prov. 13:11)
 - a. compensating employees fairly
 - b. being honest in all business dealings
 - c. paying taxes ethically

C. Reasons to Work

1. To earn a living (1 Tim. 5:8)
2. To express our creativity (Gen. 1:28)
3. To have a platform for ministry (1 Pet. 3:15 and Col. 4:5-6)

V. GIVING - like the Apostle Paul we are to be drink offerings (2 Tim. 4:6)

A. Principles of Giving

1. Should be done joyfully (2 Cor. 9:6-8)
2. Should be done with a plan and with mutual agreement
 - a. evangelism
 - b. discipleship
 - c. meeting the needs of the poor
3. Should be done with an expectation of God's varied blessings (Prov. 3:9-10)

B. Understanding God's Wartime Economy - We Need to Be:

1. Preparing for Battle

- a. Learning how to fight
or

- 1. Pay the Lord - give**
- 2. Pay your creditors - owe no man anything but the debt of love (Rom. 13:7-8)**
- 3. Pay yourself - save (5 account method)**
 - A. Giving Account**
 - B. Long Term Savings Account**
 - C. Kids' Education Account**
 - D. Next Car Account**
 - E. Fun and Home Improvement Account**
- 4. Enjoy the rest and relax - you are a "chosen" child of the King!**

"The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but victory belongs to the Lord." (Prov. 21:31)

