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The Family And Finances

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The Family and Finances

I. Of this were your subject where would you start? In debt? Perhaps most of us are!
A. Would it be with pious platitudes?
   1. Don't let your out go be more than your income.
   2. Don't run out of checks before you run out of month.
   3. Penny saved is a penny earned.
   4. If your outgo exceeds your income then your upkeep will be your downfall (apples of gold)
   5. Money won't buy friends, but it will give you a better class of enemies. (J. Edward Day)
   ..Gold is worse than poison to men's souls, doing more murders in this loathsome world, than any mortal drug. (Shakespeare)
The trouble with Americans today is they're money mad. Every time they look at what's happening to their money, they get mad!
   (Bob Orben)
B. Seems a better place is with the Scriptures.
   Prov. 4:11 "I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths."
1 Tim. 6:6-10 - Read
Eph. 4:28 "Let him that sole steal no more"
Prov. 11:25 "The liberal soul shall be made fat; he that watereth shall be watered also himself.
"A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed."

Job 29:12-13: Read
Job 31:16-22: Read
1 Tim. 5:4 "If any widow have children"
1 Tim. 5:8 "But if any provide not for

(C. Next question could be - how to incorporate these Scriptures into our lives?)

II. Though it is not true in every nation, it is true in ours, we must have money.
A. Money defined.
1. Ron Prossan quote #1
2. Ron Prossan on money's purpose #2
3. Ron Blue's statement #3
5. That money talks - I'll not deny,
   I heard it once: It said, "Goodby."
   (Richard Armour)
   (Money is) an article which may be used as a universal passport to everywhere except Heaven, and a universal provider of everything except happiness.
   (Wall Street Journal)
B. Problems this lesson brings me.

1. I am not talking primarily to long established homes other than to encourage you to give.

2. Neither will things I say apply to second marriages though there are words now I want to read you.

   Clip #4

3. Rather to two groups - young families and imprisoned families.

4. The imprisoned ones.

Matt. 18:30 - Debtors went to prison

5. What with the trillion dollars owed National debt? No credit cards?

   a) Average American carries $3,900 balance on his credit cards

   b) His minimum payment is $81.46 on this debt

   c) If he regularly pays the minimum and does not purchase anything else on his card, it will take 7.6 years to pay his debt, $3,529.86 in interest.

   d) "But that's not much" - the average middle class couple will jointly earn $900,000 in their lifetime - clip on how we use it? #5
e) Jim Wilson in July 14, 1996 "Lookout" wrote:

1) Don't be a repeat offender the card is not saving you from emergencies - it's creating them
2) Lower bank charges
3) Double monthly payment
4) Put your card away
5) Don't create any debt that does not have a corresponding equity - a home, an investment - not a debt.

Prov. 21:5 The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.

Prov. 11:6 "The righteousness of the upright delivers them, but the unfaithful are trapped by evil desires.

f) We buy things we don't need with money we don't have to impress people we don't like.
g) A hamburger by any other name costs more.
(Julia Child)

h) Seems odd that the local cemetery raises the price of burial lots and blames it on the cost of living.
i) Some people say a lot of germs are passed around on a dollar
bill. Ain't true - nothing can live on a dollar.

C. So how do we keep from getting in this mess? (How to Facing)

1. Am I willing to work for a living? (Black Card) #6
   a) Attitude important - I'll live simply/frugally. I'll work from scratch - mow, rake, trim myself. #7
   b) I'll organize what I have
      1) Wright card #8 & #9
      2) Budget:
         Fixed Expenses
         Church gifts
         Housing
         Taxes
         Utilities

       Flexible #10
       Furniture (Blyth Bull)
       Clothing
       Vacation Simple Plan #11
       Entertainment
       Gifts

       Final Expenses
       Medical & dental
       Education
       Transportation
       Insurance
       Burial
2. I'll ask myself these questions:
   #12
3. Then what do I want my money to do?
   a) Control someone?
   b) Purchases at horrible costs -
   c) Divide my family? #13
      Manipulate someone?
      Enforce certain behavior?
      Indulge children?
      Bring happiness? He who
dies with teh most toys wins.
   d) Kemp wuote #14
   e) Carswell quote #15

D. Finally what will I give to Jesus?
   1. Tithe card #16
   2. Why does $20 look so small when walking into the grocery and so
      big when we go to church?
      (Jim Wilson)
   3. Count your blessings. #17

Church Street C/C, Lewisburg 9/9/96
The New Testament also speaks of the rich in less-than-glowing terms, advises about the desirability of laying up treasures in heaven rather than on earth, and reports on the chastisement of dishonest money changers. Money was creating problems that Jesus and the disciples had to address. In fact, there are about 300 verses on money and possessions in the Gospels alone. The Bible contains about 500 verses on prayer, 500 on faith, and over 2,000 on money and possessions. The primary message of all these verses is that you cannot serve both God and money. In the Old Testament people worshiped golden calves; in the New Testament they began to worship gold.

FROM: The Thoughtful Christian's Guide to Investing,
Gary D. Moore Pg. 42
WHAT MONEY IS

According to the dictionary, money is a medium of exchange; any equivalent for commodities; something for which individuals readily exchange their goods or services; a circulating medium. It must satisfy three basic functions: It must be storable, divisible, and valuable. Money today still has the first two components, but in a practical sense it no longer has any real value.

Until 1933 the United States held to a gold standard that...
In his book *Master Your Money*, Ron Blue uses three words—tool, test, and testimony—to summarize how money is viewed by God. He says that money is a tool God uses to mold us to His image. It is a test of our faithfulness (Luke 16:11–13). And it is a vehicle that can enhance our individual testimonies; it provides opportunities for us to be salt and light to this world (Matt. 5:13–16).
Money. There isn't a day that goes by that most of us do not think about, work for, or use money. Money is one of those “things” in our life that cause mixed emotions. On the one hand, we cannot function without it in our society; on the other hand, if we’re not careful, it will consume us. But what is the truth about it? What is it anyway? Why do we have it? How do we get it? Is it really worth all the time and effort we spend trying to make it? How should we spend it? Is it really critical for my self-image and who I am? How should I think about money? Do people (even well-meaning Christians) evaluate me on the basis of how much money I have?

The purpose of someone or something is the end or aim that that person or thing is here to accomplish. What is the end or aim of money? What is its ultimate purpose? I am convinced from my
The program will guide the pastor-counselor into the discussion of finances. However, it is geared toward the establishment of the first (hopefully the last) household. The special problem of the second marriage is the meshing of the independent financial status of each of the partners. Not infrequently, each will enter the marriage with a considerable bank account, land holdings, insurance, or an estate. In some cases a deceased husband will have left a trust fund which must remain in the woman's possession. These items should be thoroughly discussed by the couple and agreements for merging their means into common possession determined. If merger is impossible because of legal complications, or must be stretched over several years for tax purposes, it would be well for the couple to write out their agreements. They should also be encouraged to have new wills drawn which carefully specify their wishes regarding financial matters. These should be drawn up in advance and become effective the day of the marriage. In regard to the details of these matters, the pastor should advise the couple to seek legal counsel.

One further matter should be discussed which falls into the category of financial concerns and may be emotionally charged. Should they live in the home of either party? The answer is necessarily "no." But the wise pastor will explore this decision with them.

Many of these folks will be experienced at life. But there have been flaws somewhere in the cases of divorced people, or they would not have been a divorce. The pastor-counselor's interest is not so much in the details of the agreements worked out between the couple, but in their attitudes with respect to the establishment of oneness in this area.
The researchers found that a much higher percentage of young people say that making a lot of money is "very important." However, the number who say that work should be a very important part of their life has dropped from 75 percent ten years ago to 35 percent today. The interpretation seems obvious. The kids expect to have a lot of money, but they don't want to work hard to get it.

--Jim Nelson Black
When Nations Die, pg. 151
Another matter on which the theology of premarital counseling impinges is the use and administration of wealth. The average middle-class couple in America will jointly earn approximately $900,000 in their lifetime. How will they use this wealth? Will a large portion be expended for needless medical and psychiatric assistance as a result of improperly relating to each other? Will it be administrated with the proper spiritual priorities as guidelines? The pastor's guidance may well be the determining factor. Cannot he, at least to some extent, effectively fulfill his duty through a good premarital counseling program?
Three basic principles to develop financial unity are:
(1) All money brought in should be regarded as "family" money with each person informed of its sources and destination; (2) money should be used after mutual discussion and agreement; and (3) each person should receive a small amount for his own use without having to account for it.

Another principle to follow is to consider what the money will be spent for and then classify each item as a need or a want. Too often what we may consider needs are actually wants and thus are not essential.

--H. Norman Wright
The Premarital Counseling Handbook
pg. 221
When they are married, who is going to be responsible for handling the finances? Who will pay the bills and write the checks? And how have they arrived at this particular decision?

Whether it is the man or the woman who has not had the financial experience, both ought to develop financial proficiency. No matter who is paying the bills, both need to be fully aware of the amount of money coming in and where it is going. If a wife is responsible for purchasing groceries each week and the husband expresses concern over the amount of money she is spending, he should go shopping with her. That way he will know what it is like to go out and pay for food; he can see for himself what food costs.
A youngster knocked at the door of a home in Des Moines and offered to mow the grass. The price agreed on was a dollar. A little while later, the little guy rapped on the door again and said, “You gotta help us. There are three of us and we can’t figure how to divide a dollar and make it come out equal—so can you make the price 75¢?”
If both are working, it may be well to recommend that they try to live on one paycheck so they become accustomed to that lifestyle.

It is standard practice now to ask couples to shop at a market together and purchase a week's supply of food for their family. It might also be helpful if the man would accompany the woman as she shops in a department store to become aware of costs.

Other areas that need to be considered include the ways the two people have handled money in the past. Have they had a sufficient amount of money to handle?

-over-
Have they had a savings account? Have they ever had a checking account?

do you watch the cash register scanner, low price mistakes, individual packaging costs, eye level products are more expensive, and sale items aren't as good as those in the back of the store.

-- H. Norman Wright
The Premarital Counseling Handbook
pg. 220
Responsibility to provide for one's family (1 Tim. 5:8) and the support of the work of the Lord (2 Cor. 9) should be clearly grasped. A good suggestion to the couple which will facilitate the fulfillment of both of these obligations is the 10-10-10-70 budget. Ten percent is put aside for the Lord, 10 percent is earmarked for regular savings, 10 percent builds a contingency fund, and 70 percent provides a cost-of-living budget. If both partners plan to work for the first few years, this budget may be applied to his salary, while her entire income may be placed in a special high-interest account after subtracting at least a tithe. To learn the grace of giving, such couples should be urged to consider more than a tithe.
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<tr>
<td>10. Indebtedness</td>
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1. How much money do you think you will need to operate your household?

2. Does your wife or husband plan to work?

3. How much money should your mate have for personal expenses (jewelry, athletics?)

4. How often should a family eat out?

5. What part of your family income should be given to the Lord?

6. Do you plan to buy or rent a dwelling?

7. What is your opinion of buying on credit?

8. Which of you is going to
handic the money and payment of bills?

9. How much money should be spent on recreational activities?

10. Have you planned any kind of a budget? _____ A Will? ______ An insurance program?

11. If she does work and becomes pregnant, how will the family adjust to the lower income?
Gilder notes that "... full-time work by mothers of small children comes at a serious twofold cost: first, the loss of the immeasurable social benefit of the mother's loving care for her child; second, the frequent loss of the husband's full-time concentration on his career. The yield of the mother's job to the economy or the man's help in the home only rarely can offset these costs of her employment. The society will pay the costs one way or another; not only through tremendous outlays for day care but also through economic declines, population loss, juvenile delinquency, crime, mental illness, alcoholism, addiction, and divorce."\(^\text{13}\)

Who can estimate the worth of a godly mother? Dr. Leila Denmark, an eighty-eight-year-old Atlanta pediatrician, made this statement: "The hardest job on this earth, and the most important, is mothering. It's twenty-four hours for twenty-one years. When you take the baby out of the cradle and put it in a nursery (daycare), you've wrecked the nation. You can't tell them you love them and drop them off and drive off each day. One ... patient who was going back to work so they could buy a new house said, 'Please check my baby for the nursery (daycare).' I said, 'Do you mean to tell me you're selling that baby for a house? Twenty years from now that house will be no good and your baby will be gone.'"\(^\text{14}\)
I have often argued that economic prosperity will help solve many of our serious social problems, but I have never argued that it is sufficient. It will not heal a broken home. It will not provide a child with a father’s discipline and love or a mother’s nurture and comfort. It will not restore honesty and respect for life.

Jack Kemp
Former Congressman, Secretary of HUD, potential Presidential candidate; “A Cultural Renaissance,” Imprimis
Money can buy a bed but not sleep, books but not brains, food but not an appetite, a house but not a home, medicine but not health. Money can also buy sinful pleasures—but it can never purchase salvation's peace.

HOW SMALL A WHISPER
by Roger Carswell
So how much do I give? A study of the Old Testament reveals that the tithe is in reality 23 percent and not the commonly used 10 percent. (An annual tithe of 10 percent was required for the maintenance of the Levites [Lev. 27:30; Num. 18:21], a second tithe of 10 percent was brought to Jerusalem for the Lord's feast [Deut. 14:22], and every third year an additional 10 percent was to be collected for strangers, widows, and orphans.) The New Testament sets a new standard for giving—the example of Christ—and mentions tithing only in connection with the old covenant. The guideline for giving under grace, not law, is found in 2 Cor. 9:6-7,
Americans live in a land blessed beyond measure materially. With 6% of the world's population, America consumes one-half of the world's resources, spends one-half of all the money, eats one-seventh of all the food, uses one-half of all the bathtubs, has 10 times more doctors than the other 90% and enjoys a per capita income of $4,000 as against a per capita average of $200 for the rest of the world. Have American Christians no responsibility to these unfortunate multitudes who are so in need?

Americans just don't count their blessings. They're the only people in the world who can afford chairs that vibrate and insist upon cars that don't. — BURTON HILLIS, Better Homes & Gardens, 3-70.

LIKE JESUS?, by Leslie B. Flynn (s. 47-58, "Service with a Capital S")