

### Introduction on Money (*Reason 7 for Divorce among Couples*)

1. What does money have to do with our connection to Jesus and to each other, especially our spouse? In other words, should the church even talk about money?
2. Can you think of any society – in any part of the world – at any time in the history of the world – where a greater percentage of citizens have more things than we do today in America?

#### **A. Money can be a source of tremendous temptation.**

1. What point is Jesus making here concerning money?

Matthew 6:24 “*No one can serve two masters. 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 both God and Money.*”

2. Three of the Ten Commandments refer to sins against God, and three of the Ten Commandments refer to sins involving money or possessions. What’s God emphasizing by that?

Exodus 20:15, 17 <sup>10</sup> *You shall not steal... You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.*

3. List some forms of stealing that many consider socially acceptable. (Fudging on taxes, stealing from work (billions lost in internet and long distance phone calls), shoplifting, insurance claims, suing

4. Is it wrong to be rich? What about wanting to get rich?

1 Timothy 6:6-10 “But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

5. What are some of the dangers that come to those who want to get rich (and speak about this in terms of dangers for a marriage as well)?

## B. Money can also serve as a tremendous tool.

1. The Bible doesn't hesitate to call us God's servants or managers (Luke 16, 19...) of his possessions. What does being called a manager/steward imply?

*Psalm 50:9-12 I have no need of a bull from your stall or of goats from your pens, for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird in the mountains, and the creatures of the field are mine. If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the world is mine, and all that is in it.*

*1 Corinthians 4:2 Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.*

*Luke 12:48b From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.*

2. If you owned a business and had an employee who was constantly cheating you out of your profits or robbing you by not following the guidelines you gave, how long would you keep him or her around?
3. What are the four guidelines God (our boss) has given you and me concerning our money?

*Proverbs 3:9 Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of your crops.*

*1 Corinthians 16:2 On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collection will have to be made.*

*#1:- What does God want us to do first and foremost as his stewards?*

*(4 Points: Cheerful – Valentines Giving, Planned, Percentage, Best)*

NOTE: Consider the impact giving to the Lord can have in Luke 16:9 I (Jesus) tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

*Romans 13:6-7 This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.*

*#2: What else does God want us to do as his stewards?*

*Question: Is it okay to pile up credit card debt and live in debt?*

1 Timothy 5:8 *If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

#3: *What else does God want us to do as his stewards?*

Proverbs 19:17 *He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done.*

1 John 3:17 *If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?*

#4: *What else does God want us to do as his stewards?*

4. What should we be careful of when it comes to our money? Is this easy in our society?

2 Thessalonians 3:10 “For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule; “If a man will not work, he shall not eat.”

### **C. Closing thoughts about money:**

1. What wisdom about our finances does the Bible give us in the following passages?  
Proverbs 6:6-8 *Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at the harvest. (Savings)*

Proverbs 11:24 *One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. (Generosity)*

Proverbs 15:16 *Better a little with the fear of the LORD than great wealth with turmoil. (Content)*

Proverbs 23:4-5 *Do not wear yourself out to get rich; have the wisdom to show restraint. Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle. (Recognize wealth is uncertain)*

2. Luther said that the order of conversion is as follows: “The head, the heart, then the wallet.” Why did he say that?
3. What alone causes us to receive Jesus as the Lord of our life, even our finances, and bring peace in our marriages when there is a dispute over finances?  
2 Corinthians 8:9 *For you know the grace of our LORD Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.*