

## The Love of Money

### 1. Identifying the Problem

- A. Lk 12:16-21 - No one admits to greed or loving money. People rationalize why they **need** the things they merely **desire**. Where do we cross the line?
- B. Objective indicators to help us examine our attitudes toward money/materialism:
1. How much *voluntary* overtime do you work? Have small children? Pr 23:4. Are you willing to lower your standard of living in order to work less so that you can spend more time with your children?
  2. How many credit cards do you carry a balance on month to month? Are you patient enough to buy on interest-free credit?
  3. Must you have *name brand*, even when off-brands are better quality/cheaper?
  4. Is contribution more than: electric bill? Restaurant tab? Car payment? Where **does** it rank with other expenditures? **Illus:** 30\$/wk = \$130/mo average.
  5. Does your wife work outside the home? Why? Husbands, do you insist upon it for further income? Wives, are you more career-ambitious than contented with motherhood? If not *wrong*, is it *wise*?
  6. Fuss about family inheritance? See Lk 12:13-15.
  7. How do you feel when friend gets raise, new house, cruise, stock dividend?  
Rom 12:15 - Rejoice with those who rejoice; 1 Cor 12:26 - all members rejoice.
- C. Materialism so permeates our culture that we cannot see it. We see *gross abuses* of it and we *see it in others*, but hard to see in ourselves.

### 2. Problems of Materialism

- A. Not just a lecture on economics. Bible ties \$ to spirituality. **Illus:** Memori's parking tickets. To save \$40 she broke rules, evaded detection, built \$1600 debt.
- B. How inordinate focus on material things affects us:
1. Distraction from spiritual goals, values. We think that once we finally reach our material goals we will devote ourselves to spiritual things. But the rich man said when successful, "*Take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.*" Material ambitions can become all-consuming.

2. Favoritism - Jas 2:1-5. We *like* to be around the successful, the well-off, but James warns us against the **sin** of favoritism.
3. Lack of generosity - Lk 11:37-41. The Pharisees were greedy, stingy. The roll-call of the generous: Mary Magdalene/Joanna/Susanna who provided for Jesus, the Capernaum centurion, Mary (very costly oil of spikenard), Barnabas, Cornelius, the Macedonians, Paul, etc.
4. Chronic anxiety, agitation of mind - Mt 6:25ff. If Jesus tells us not to worry over the *necessities* of life, how much less should we worry about *frivolous* possessions? This state of mind leads to **marital stress**.

C. 1 Tim 6:9-10 - *“the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil ...”*.

### **3. Overcoming the Love of Money: Contentment**

- A. Cultivate contentment via godliness - 1 Tim 6:6. *“One’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses”* (Lk 12:15). A **learned** response - Ph 4:11-12
- B. Trust that God will take care of your future - Heb 13:5; 1 Tim 6:17.
- C. Develop a “sojourn mentality” - **Illus:** Living in London. Not there to accumulate, to be in mainstream of culture, adopt British ambitions, etc. *It is difficult to see one’s own culture/influences objectively. We must **try**.*