

4Ws

MONEY: GOOD OR EVIL?

FREEDOM FROM DEBT

MAY 29, 2022

WORSHIP

Because of Your Love, Your
Grace Is Enough, Fairest
(Fairest Lord Jesus), You Are
My All in All

WELCOME

Have you been in debt?
What's the biggest amount
of debt did you incur?

WORD

1 CORINTHIANS 4:2

In this case, moreover, it is
required of stewards that
one be found trustworthy.

The way you handle money is a reflection of the attitude of your heart. The way you handle money shows how you trust, love and your loyalty to God. He sees our spiritual attitude towards money. You need to go to God and get the right perspective and truth about money.

In one recent survey, 70% of Christians are in debt. God's Word teaches us how to get out of debt. We have a God of the impossible who does wonders in changing our lives if we humble ourselves and trust Him. Howard Dayton said "**No one who is financially bound is spiritually free**". The desire of our hearts is to be debt-free and spiritually free. The Bible gives us many stories on how God provided for His people in times of need. Jesus gave many life lessons about money. Allow God through the Holy Spirit to change our mindset and habits. It won't be easy but the benefits are life-changing and worth it.

WHAT IS DEBT?

Debt is: 1) a feeling of gratitude for a service or favor, 2) is typically money, that is owed or due within a certain amount of time, and 3) is being financially overdue or overextended. The Bible doesn't prohibit debt but God is opposed to the #3 because you are not keeping your word of honor.

The truth is we are all in debt in one way or another. Yet God wants His children not to be in debt, to be generous givers and not borrowers (**Psalm 37:21**).

WHAT IS THE ROOT OF DEBT?

Most debt is rooted in a spiritual problem of not trusting God to give you what you need. Oftentimes people go into debt to overcome unhappiness or a deep hurt, using material possessions to substitute for real love. We need to ask "**God, how do You want me to be a good steward of Your money?**" It is not our money but God's. Everything we do with it reflects upon us and Him. The root problem of debt is the sin of pride.

It is not always wrong to be in debt, however it is important that you have funds set aside or a steady income to pay for it. The Bible warns us (**Romans 13:8**), owe nothing to anyone as much as possible; the only debt that we should have is love for others.

WHAT IS THE RESULT OF DEBT?

To paraphrase **Proverbs 22:7**, "**he who borrows sells his freedom.**" Debt is slavery which somehow prevents you from praising God, hinders your prayer life, or limits you in other ways. You're consumed with serving men rather than serving God. Debt enslaves us. The good news is we can face debt and not run away. We can find freedom with God.

HOW TO GET OUT OF DEBT?

These are God-centered steps of faith to experience freedom from debt:

1. Pray to God - Confess & Repent

Pray to God. Seek His wisdom (**James 1:5-6**). Ask Him "**Lord what can I do to overcome this crisis in my life?**" This is a spiritual issue,

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and it needs a spiritual solution. Our God knows what's going on in our lives. We need to humbly come before Him and cry out for help and rescue (**Psalm 18:6**). The most important step is to go to God. Great is His faithfulness (**Lamentations 3:22-23**).

Are you willing to humbly confess and repent of your debt situation to God?

2. Make a Debt List

Know your financial situation (**Proverbs 27:23-24**). Keep a clean record of what you earn, spend, own, and what you owe. Write these things down or encode in a program. This is the big picture. This is good stewardship. If you keep record, you will know clearly what you need and where you are. You will see how much you have available to pay your debt each month.

Are you willing to make your debt list?

3. Make a Debt Repayment Plan

Pay your debts (**Proverbs 3:27-28**). Pray for your creditor's hearts. Go and talk to them. Share your situation and plan. Stick to your plan.

Are you willing to humble yourself and talk to your creditors?

4. Stop Adding Debt

Whatever caused you to be in debt should be stopped, removed or stayed away from completely. You need God's power to change your heart and spending habits (**Proverbs 16:3**). Be disciplined to pay the full amount of your monthly obligations. Find ways to immediately build up other sources of income to get out of your debt faster. When it comes to decreasing your expenses, ask "what sacrifices can I make to radically cut down on my spending for such a time as this?" Live on a cash basis.

Are you willing to stop adding debt?

5. Be Accountable to Someone

Find someone who you can fully trust and share about your plans of how to repay your debts. Give them a copy of your debt list and repayment plan. This person must be willing to hold you to that plan and to treat you with tough love to see to it that you are diligent in making those monthly payments. Give them permission to be strict and unwavering to follow up with you. Be totally honest and transparent with your accountability partner (**James 5:16**). Tell them your sins. Pray for one another.

Will you commit to be accountable to a partner?

There is one debt that we cannot pay. That is the debt of our sin against God. No matter how many good works you do or how religious you are, you can never cancel your debt of sin. But God who is a faithful provider has given you the perfect sacrifice to pay the penalty of your sins. Jesus Christ paid a debt He did not owe, to satisfy a debt we couldn't pay. Our freedom was bought at a price—the perfect sacrifice of the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Self-Check.

What is the biggest lesson you have learned in regard to getting into debt?

2. Setting It Right.

When it comes to paying off your debt, what will you start doing immediately?

3. Living It Out.

What must you do to be a more faithful steward of God's money?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for people to be free from the bondage of sin through the Lord Jesus Christ. Offer yourself as an accountability partner and be accountable to another in getting out of debt or in maintaining a debt-free lifestyle. Share God's Word on how to be financially and spiritually free!

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of newly-elected and incumbent public servants; repentance and salvation for government leaders and citizens for a Christ-centered Philippines.

- For the Russian invasion of Ukraine to stop; peace and order be restored, lives spared. Russian and Ukrainian soldiers, families, leaders to turn to Christ; refugees be given safe passage into surrounding nations.

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends

MEMORY VERSE

PROVERBS 22:7

The rich rules over the poor,
And the borrower becomes the lender's slave.