

Home Builder's

Making Marriage Work in a Broken World

Lesson 7: Money Matters: Finances in Marriage

Text: 1 Timothy 6:17-19

- I. Wealthy Christians should take care to maintain humility and trust in God. (17)
 - A. Riches tend to make us proud.
 1. "Wealth often gives birth to vanity. It tends to make people feel self-important, and so 'contemptuous of others'."
 - B. We tend to trust riches.
 1. Wealth often creates a false sense of security.
 2. "The two dangers, then, to which the rich are exposed are a false pride (looking down on people less fortunate than themselves) and a false security (trusting in the gift instead of in the Giver). In this way wealth can spoil life's two paramount relationships, causing us to forget God and despise our neighbor."
 - C. God is the giver of all things.
- II. Wealthy Christians should do good and be generous with their wealth. (18)
 - A. Wealth should be handled rightly.
 1. Wealth should be gained and used in a righteous way.
 - B. We should focus more on being rich in good works than being rich financially.
 1. Our lives should be more characterized by righteous actions than by the pursuit of wealth.
 - C. We should be generous.
 1. We should be characterized by generosity rather than stinginess.
 - D. We should willingly share what we have.
 1. Giving should be done willingly rather than by constraint.
- III. Christians who use their wealth wisely store up treasures in heaven and lay hold on eternal life.
 - A. The wise user of wealth stores treasure in heaven.
 1. We should be living for the next life not just for the here and now.
 - B. The wise user of wealth lives with the blessing of eternity now.
 1. "We lay hold on eternal life as we realize in our souls that we do not belong to this sphere; that everything for us is connected with the scene to which we are going."
Ironsides

Big Idea: We rightly use the wealth God has given us by trusting in God and by using His gifts righteously.

Application/Discussion:

How do we use what God has given us rightly?

- God neither wants us to be ascetic or self-indulgent.
 - Enjoy what God has given you, but don't live for luxury.
- Stay out of debt.
 - Live within your means.
- Set a budget and live by it.
- Determine to be generous.
 - With God.
 - With God's people.
- Be thankful for what you have.
- Don't covet what others have.

For Next Week:

Lesson Title: Christian Contentment: Breaking Free from the Success Syndrome

Life is about more than stuff.

1 Timothy 6:6-10