

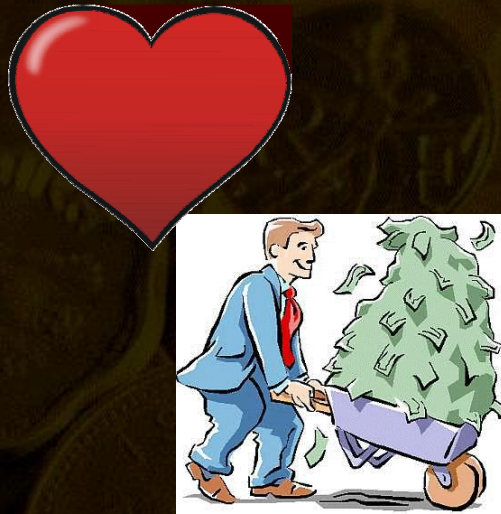
Ten biblical principles about money and wealth

A survey of Scripture

1. God owns everything and we are His stewards
2. Worship and trust God rather than money
- 3. Beware of the love of money**
4. God cares how we manage our money
5. Honor God by faithfully giving of our income
6. Develop a lifestyle which creates margin
7. Cultivate a generous heart and live sacrificially
8. Care for the poor, weak, oppressed, and needy
9. Use wealth to glorify God and build treasure in heaven
10. Pursue the true riches rather than material wealth

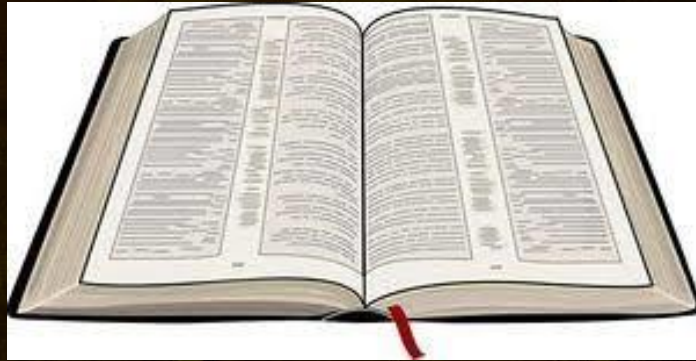
Principle #3 Beware of the love of money: The third Biblical principle regarding money and wealth is to beware of falling in love with our resources – including money. This is a subject that many people struggle with, including myself. The allure of our prized possessions is powerful. Therefore, it is the purpose of this module to provide Biblical insight into the dangers of loving what we have, particularly money. We will learn how to recognize their symptoms, consider the consequences of greed, and then discover the Biblical remedy for these two temptations – love of money and greed -- that are available to us.

Principle #3. Beware of the love of money



Principle #3. Beware of the love of money: In this module, we will consider 9 warning signs that money is becoming an object of our affection. We will list 14 consequences of falling in love with money, then delve into the related subject of greed. Besides looking at the penalties of greed, we will list over 30 examples of greed in the Bible. Finally, we'll look at the antidote to greed by examining seven Godly attitudes towards money; Finally, we'll make a case for the most important thing regarding this topic.

The Bible teaches us to love God, not our money



The goal of our study is a transformed heart

The Bible teaches us to love God, not our money: The Bible teaches us to love God rather than money. The goal of this module, as with the others, is the transformation of our hearts to make loving God, not the things he has given us, the pursuit our lives.

The underlying theme of this seminar

God wants our heart

- The purpose of my instruction is that all believers would be filled with love that comes from a pure heart, a clear conscience, and genuine faith. 1 Timothy 1:5 (NLT)



The underlying theme of this seminar: let's read our theme verse together: 1st Timothy 1:5

Principle #3. Beware of the love of money

Outline

- Key Bible passages
- 11 warning signs that we're falling in love with our money
- 14 consequences of falling in love with money
- 5 consequences of greed (covetousness)
- 31 examples of greed in the Bible
- 7 godly attitudes towards money
- The most important thing



Principle #3. Beware of the love of money: In this module, we will consider 9 warning signs that money is becoming an object of our affection. We will list 14 consequences of falling in love with money, then delve into the related subject of greed. Besides looking at the penalties of greed, we will list over 30 examples of greed in the Bible. Finally, we'll look at the antidote to greed by examining seven Godly attitudes towards money; Finally, we'll make a case for the most important thing regarding this topic.

Key Bible passages

- **Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."** Hebrews 13:5
- **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.** 1 Timothy 6:9-10
- **"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.** Matt 6:24

Key Bible passages: here are three passages relating to this topic. Let's read them together: Matthew 13:5, 1 Timothy 6: 9-10, and Matthew 6:24.

The Bible makes it very clear that we are to God rather than money. In Hebrews 13 verse 5, we see that money cannot satisfy our heart's desire for security because only God can provide real safety and peace in our lives in our lives.

First Timothy 6 passage reveals the devastation that the love of money can produce in our lives. We can fall into awful temptations and harmful desires. and destroy our lives.

Worst of all, Jesus informs us in the passage in Matthew that the love of money competes with our devotion to God. We can't have it both ways.

Eleven warning signs that we might be falling in love with our money



Nine warning signs that we might be falling in love with our money: we have seen from these three passages, and there are many others that have similar messages, that the affection for wealth is not only destructive, it's wrong because it usurps God's rightful place in our lives. So let's lean into this subject.

To begin, let's look at nine warning signs that money and the things it can buy are becoming the object of our affections. They are listed in no particular order, and there are undoubtedly others. But this list should help us gain a perspective of the lure of money and make us more determined to guard our heart's attitude towards it.

1. Preoccupation with money

■ For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows. 1 Timothy 6:10 (NLT)



1. Preoccupation with money: perhaps the most obvious danger sign on our list is a preoccupation with money. Let's read this familiar verse, 1 Timothy 6:10.

The two activities mentioned are loving and craving. This suggests some questions to ask ourselves: Is money all we think about? Do we passionately want more of it to the exclusion of family, friends, or a closer relationship with God? Do we long to be rich? Are we obsessed with getting ahead financially? These can be danger signs of object-worship. We may be starting to love money and developing a passion to become wealthy.

2. Refusal to help those in need

■ **Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act. Do not say to your neighbor, "Come back later; I'll give it tomorrow"--when you now have it with you.** Proverbs 3:27-28



2. Refusal to help those in need: another danger sign that money is beginning to capture our hearts is to refuse to help those in need. Let's read Proverbs 3: 27-28. Here we see that if we have the power to help someone in need, we should do it immediately. Don't delay if the need is urgent.

Putting ourselves in the shoes of the needy, or experiencing it ourselves, will help us be more compassionate towards them.

3. Discontentment

■ **Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."** Hebrews 13:5

■ **"As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things."** 2 Cor 6:10

3. Discontentment: discontentment may also be a sign that we cherish our money. The Bible encourages us to be content with what we have knowing that God is our provider, not our money. We saw that in the last module.

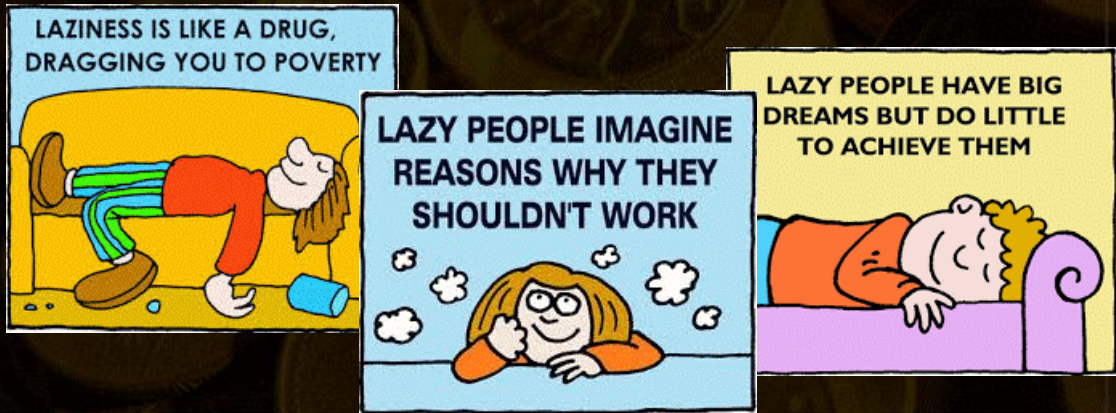
Let's read these two verses: Hebrews 13:5 and 2 Corinthians 6:10.

I think the passage in II Corinthians is rich in meaning. It seems to teach us that regardless of our outward circumstances, we can rejoice in knowing that God loves us and will provide for us, and that if we have him we have everything. Moreover, no matter our financial status, when we engage in the spiritual development of others, we find

true meaning in life.

4. Laziness

■ **The sluggard's craving will be the death of him, because his hands refuse to work. All day long he craves for more, but the righteous give without sparing.** Proverbs 21:25-26



4. Laziness: Not wanting to work for our money could be a warning sign of greed. We want our needs to be met, but in the meantime we have been wasting time on the couch in front of the television, engaging in worthless endeavors, playing video games on our computer, or aimlessly surfing the internet for hours on end. Because of these wasters of time, we end up frustrated, unfulfilled, and wanting others (or the government) to give us money. Let's read Proverbs 21:25 to 26.

5. Fraud and other unjust means



■ **Food gained by fraud tastes sweet to a man, but he ends up with a mouth full of gravel.** Proverbs 20:17

■ **"Woe to him who builds his realm by unjust gain to set his nest on high, to escape the clutches of ruin!"** Habakkuk 2:9

5. Fraud and deception: Let's read these two verses: Habakkuk 2:9 and Proverbs 20:17.

People who use fraud and other unjust means to get money are everywhere. I don't think any of us as Christians would intentionally try to get money in this manner, but Satan is very subtle in his ways. It's important to remember that we can be deceived and, regrettably, we can deceive others.

A common example today is Internet fraud. Hardly a day goes by that I don't receive an email or advertisement that is fraudulent or deceptive in its appeal. In fact, I can't count the number of times that I have been an intended victim. One week I made a list of the prizes I won and awards I earned through misleading or fraudulent emails, or spam. Here is a partial list:

- Two Samsung QLED 8K UHD HDR Smart TVs
- Makita power drill
- 170-piece Stanley tool set
- Automatic coffee maker
- Cookware set
- Stainless steel kitchen knife set
- 2 Keurig coffee machines
- Target \$100 gift card
- 2 Ninja air fryers
- Kroger \$100 gift card
- Several CVS \$90 gift cards
- Several SW Airlines \$100 gift cards
- Free solar panels
- Milwaukee tool chest

Of course, none of these were legitimate. They were simply attractively packaged enticements to get me to click on the link to receive these fabulous prizes. I did no such thing. Instead, I quickly deleted them. I encourage you all not to take the bait. If you do, there may be no end to the trouble that may be visited upon you.

I wonder how many of us have been the intended targets of unscrupulous people who would try to get our money through manipulation and deception?

6. Jealousy, selfishness, violence or theft

- **But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying. For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind. James 3:14-16 (NLT2)**
- **When you want a piece of land, you find a way to seize it. When you want someone's house, you take it by fraud and violence. You cheat a man of his property, stealing his family's inheritance. Micah 2:2 (NLT2)**

6. Greed, jealousy, fraud or theft: This passage mentions wicked attitudes and activities such as jealousy, selfish ambition, fraud, violence, and theft. I believe most people would condemn these motives and methods of obtaining money.

These passages list several sinful ways of obtaining. Of course there are other wicked ways of obtaining money such as through lying, cheating, deception, unfair advantage, manipulation, and in Judas case, betrayal.

What are the sake of Lord Jesus, let's be careful to never participate in (or even be accused) of using these methods of obtaining money.

7. Covetousness

■ Ahab coveted Naboth's vineyard 1 Kings 21



7. Covetousness: a more subtle, yet evil, way of obtaining things.

One of the familiar stories in Scripture of covetousness is of Ahab, Jezebel, and Naboth. Ahab was the king of Samaria. One day, he noticed not far from his palace a fine-looking vineyard. He found out that it belonged to a man named Naboth and offered to purchase it from him. Though the offer was reasonable, and perhaps even generous, Naboth refused because it had been in the family for some time and was a source of livelihood for previous generations, himself, and for his progeny. Naboth's refusal made Ahab angry and he went back to the palace and sulked.

His wife Jezebel became upset with Naboth's misery and basically belittled him for not standing up for his royal position. Apparently, even the king could not forcibly take someone's land. That didn't matter to Jezebel. She took matters into her own hands and managed to steal the vineyard from Naboth, first by framing him, killing him, then using executive privilege to claim it for the state. Ahab was happy to go along with this evil scheme and consummated the deal..

The outcome of this wicked series events was not good for a Ahab or his wife. They cost them their own lives and the lives of their descendants. And, I submit that money obtained in this fashion will end up badly for us as well. I'm sure you will readily agree

that we should have nothing to do with this kind of enterprise.

8. Get-rich-quick schemes

- **Crypto-currency**
- **Ponzi schemes**
- **Confidence games**
- **Shady investments**
- **Gambling**
- **Reckless borrowing**



8. A get-rich-quick attitude: Here's something we see quite often: people with a get-rich-quick attitude. There are many schemes devised by greedy people to try to get rich quickly. We all would recognize many of them as unscrupulous, such as Ponzi schemes and confidence games. Others are high risk investments, including crypto currency and junk bonds. But there are several ways that people try to make money fast that are more socially acceptable: these include gambling and risky borrowing. We will look at those two methods for getting money quickly in greater detail in the next module.

9. Stinginess

■ **A stingy man is eager to get rich and is unaware that poverty awaits him.**

Proverbs 28:22



9. Stinginess: Number seven on our list is stinginess. At first glance we might think that if we are tightfisted with our money, we will end up with more of it. But it seems that Proverbs 28:22 warns that stinginess leads to poverty. What could this verse suggest might be an antidote to poverty?

10. Entertaining bribes

- **Be careful that no one entices you by riches; do not let a large bribe turn you aside.**

Job 36:18



10. Entertaining bribes: the eighth danger sign is entertaining bribes. We know that this is the custom in some countries and that it may be socially acceptable in some situations. But we as Christians should never be guilty of soliciting or accepting bribes to pervert justice or to gain a financial advantage. Let's read Job 36:18.

11. Unwillingness to live on less than we make



■ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Hebrews 13.16 (ESV)

11. Unwillingness to live on less than we make: the last danger sign of loving our money in this list is the unwillingness to live on less than we make. This is perhaps the most subtle of all these warning signs. It is so easy to spend everything that we make on our own lifestyle (or a little more), leaving little if anything to share with others or provide for our future needs. But the wise man will set a little aside—create some margin--with each paycheck to meet his own future needs and the needs of others. We will talk more about this in module four.

11 danger signs of falling in love with money - Summary

- Preoccupation with money
- Refusal to help those in need
- Discontentment
- Laziness
- Jealousy, selfishness, violence or theft



8. A get-rich-quick attitude: Here's something we see quite often: people with a get-rich-quick attitude. There are many schemes devised by greedy people to try to get rich quickly. We all would recognize many of them as unscrupulous, such as Ponzi schemes and confidence games. Others are high risk investments, including crypto currency and junk bonds. But there are several ways that people try to make money fast that are more socially acceptable: these include gambling and risky borrowing. We will look at those two methods for getting money quickly in greater detail in the next module.

11 danger signs of falling in love with money – Summary (cont'd)

- Covetness
- Get-rich-quick schemes
- Stinginess
- Entertaining bribes
- Unwillingness to live on less than we make



8. A get-rich-quick attitude: Here's something we see quite often: people with a get-rich-quick attitude. There are many schemes devised by greedy people to try to get rich quickly. We all would recognize many of them as unscrupulous, such as Ponzi schemes and confidence games. Others are high risk investments, including crypto currency and junk bonds. But there are several ways that people try to make money fast that are more socially acceptable: these include gambling and risky borrowing. We will look at those two methods for getting money quickly in greater detail in the next module.

14 Consequences of falling in love with money



14 Consequences of falling in love with money: we've considered eleven danger signs that we might be falling in love with our money. Undoubtedly there are more. May we be self aware and vigilant against developing passions or obsessions that would compete with God's supremacy in our lives.

Let's now look at 14 consequences of choosing money as the object of our affections. Again, they are listed in no particular order.

1. We may choose the wrong priorities

■ And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.'" And he said to him, "Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth." And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. Mark 10:17-22 (ESV)

1. We may choose the wrong priorities. When we are inappropriately attached to money, we focus on our material needs and wants. We want to live the good life. We lose sight of more important things in life including our relationship to God and his desires for our money. In Mark 10:17-22 we see the story of a young man who expressed a desire to do what was right but the powerful attraction of his possessions was a stumbling block to him. Let's read this passage.

2. It leads to all manner of evil

■ **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. Tim 6:10 (ESV)**

2. It leads to all manner of evil: another consequence of falling in love with money is that it leads to all kinds of evil. We know that the desire to get rich can lead us down many wrong and dangerous paths. The eyes of our desire grow large and we dream of fantasies. This can cause us to set misguided priorities and make wrong choices. Let's read 1 Timothy 6:10.

3. It suffocates interest in spiritual things



■ And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. Luke 8:14 (ESV)

3. It suffocates interest in spiritual things: these next two points are drawn from Luke 8. A desire to get rich can dull our interest in spiritual things. We may have experienced this ourselves during times of spiritual barrenness or we may have observed it in other people. Luke 8:14. What are some of the signs that our interest in spiritual things is growing cold?

4. It retards spiritual maturity

■ "This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. **The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.** Luke 8:11-15

4. It retards spiritual maturity: the next point is similar to the previous one: although we may not completely lose interest in spiritual things, we may never fully develop as mature Christians if our constant desire is to have more and more material things. The pursuit of wealth distracts us from investing in our soul. Let's read Luke 8: 11-15.

5. We may be guilty of divided affections

- **"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. Matt 6:24**

5. We may be guilty of divided affections: Here's a passage that we saw in the second module: Matthew 6:24. We may try to allocate our love between God and earthly pursuits. The Bible suggests this allocation is impossible. The reality is that we must make a choice between serving God and money.

6. We fall into a form of idolatry



■ **Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry.**

1 Corinthians 10:14

6. We fall into a form of idolatry: the sixth consequence of loving money is to be guilty of a form of idolatry. I think the point here is that anything that we love can become an idol to us and replace God's rightful place in our hearts. When money becomes our focus, we fall into idolatry.

7. It is a form of adultery



■ **You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.** James 4:4

7. It is a form of adultery: loving money is a form of adultery. This may come as a surprise to many of us because we think of adultery as a physical act. But God considers the Love of Money as competition for the rightful place that he should have in our lives. James was pretty direct with his condemnation of this worldly attitude. Let's read this passage: James 4: 4.

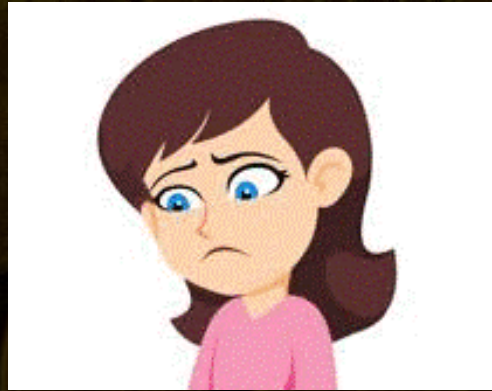
8. The love of the Father is not in us

■ **Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world--the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does--comes not from the Father but from the world.** 1 John 2:15-16

8. The love of the Father is not in us: here is a very sobering passage. In the apostle John's first letter, we are told that if we love the world, the love of the father is not in us. There is not enough room in our hearts for both. Let's read 1 John 2:15-16. This is pretty severe language and we should take it to heart lest our love for God be replaced with love for material things.

9. It can lead to discontentment

- Don't love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you." Heb 13:5 (NLT)



9. It can lead to discontentment: loving our money can lead to discontentment. Here we are admonished to be content with what we have. Let's read Hebrews 13:5

10. It will never satisfy us



■ Those who love money will never have enough. How meaningless to think that wealth brings true happiness! **Ecc1 5:10**

10. It will never satisfy us: The abundance of money will never satisfy those who love it. If we really believe this, it will help guard against giving our hearts to the pursuit of wealth. Why be passionate about something that can never fulfill our deepest longings? Let's read Ecclesiastes 5:10.

11. It can destroy us

■ But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. 1 Tim 6:9



11. It can destroy us: here is a harsh reality, if money wins our heart, it can turn on us and destroy us. Let's read 1 Timothy 6:9.

12. It is a threat to our precious faith

■ **For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.** 1 Tim 6:10 (NLT)



12. It is a threat to our precious faith: a love for money is a threat to our precious faith. This is one of the saddest consequences of loving money. Beware of a greedy man who claims to have deep spiritual insight. He may in fact be spiritually barren and only deluding himself. Let's read 1 Timothy 6:10.

13. Our life may be full of problems

■ For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

1 Tim 6:10



13. Our life may be full of problems: The passage we just read in 1 Timothy is rich with meaning. Here we see that the love of money may result in our lives having many sorrows. Visualize our love for money as an arrow that can pierce our hearts. Do any of you know people who had lots of money whose life was full of problems?

14. It will disqualify one as an elder or deacon

■ **So an elder must be a man whose life is above reproach. He must be faithful to his wife. He must exercise self-control, live wisely, and have a good reputation. He must enjoy having guests in his home, and he must be able to teach. He must not be a heavy drinker or be violent. He must be gentle, not quarrelsome, and not love money.** 1 Timothy 3:2-3 (NLT)

14. It will disqualify one as an elder or deacon: the man who loves money is disqualified from serving as an elder or deacon. Let's read 1 Timothy 3:2-3. It is good not to be hasty when selecting the leaders in our church. We should get to know them and let them demonstrate their character in a variety of situations. We should observe the lifestyles of the candidates for church leadership and select people who are devoted to the Lord and whose life is a testimony to Godliness.

14 consequences of loving money - Summary

- We may choose the wrong priorities
- It leads to all manner of evil
- It suffocates interest in spiritual things
- It retards spiritual maturity
- We may be guilty of divided affections
- We fall into a form of idolatry
- It is a form of adultery



8. A get-rich-quick attitude: Here's something we see quite often: people with a get-rich-quick attitude. There are many schemes devised by greedy people to try to get rich quickly. We all would recognize many of them as unscrupulous, such as Ponzi schemes and confidence games. Others are high risk investments, including crypto currency and junk bonds. But there are several ways that people try to make money fast that are more socially acceptable: these include gambling and risky borrowing. We will look at those two methods for getting money quickly in greater detail in the next module.

14 consequences of loving money – Summary (cont'd)

- The love of the Father is not in us
- It can lead to discontentment
- It will never satisfy us
- It can destroy us
- It is a threat to our precious faith
- Our life may be full of problems
- It disqualifies one from an elder or deacon



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A close relative of the love of money



A close relative of the love of money

Love of money is an enemy of our soul. But it has close cousin that is just as dangerous

Greed (covetousness)



Greed (covetousness): let's now consider greed, or covetousness.

Biblical warning against greed

■ Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." Luke 12:15



Biblical warning against greed: The Bible clearly warns us against being greedy. Let's read this passage in Luke.

The love of money and greed are close relatives

They are both enemies of our soul



The love of money and greed are close relatives:

Greed is a close cousin to the Love of Money. Therefore, this topic is included here for completeness. These two character qualities are both enemies of our soul and there have been many people that have been ruined by them. Unfortunately, there are many examples throughout Scripture of greedy people and the tragic result it brought to their lives and the lives of others.

6 consequences of greed (covetousness)



6 consequences of greed (covetousness): this is not an exhaustive list but let's consider 6 consequences of greed or covetousness. Since greed and love of money are so closely related, some of their characteristics overlap.

Greed can plunge us into ruin and destruction

■ **But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.** 1 Timothy 6:9-10 (NLT)

■ Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." Luke 12:15

Greed can plunge us into ruin and destruction: The longing to be rich is a temptation and a trap. It can ruin us. We saw that in 1 Timothy 6:9–10. What are some of the traps a desire to get rich can produce in our lives? In what way could these self-inflicted traps be a stumbling block to others?

God will consider us a fool

■ Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of **greed**; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'" "But God said to him, '**You fool!** This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'^ This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God." Luke 12:15-21

God will consider us a fool: Here's a consequence of greed that's rather embarrassing: If we are greedy, God may consider us to be fools. This is what Jesus said about the man described in Luke 12:15-21.

Greed is a form of idolatry and may bring God's wrath on us

■ **So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming.** Colossians 3:5-6 (NLT)

Greed is a form of idolatry and may bring God's wrath on us: greed, or the love of money, is a form of idolatry. We've already seen that by practicing idolatry, we may incur God's wrath. Let's read Colossians 3:5-6.

Greed may leave us unprepared to face God's coming judgement

■ **They will throw their silver into the streets, and their gold will be an unclean thing. Their silver and gold will not be able to save them in the day of the LORD's wrath. They will not satisfy their hunger or fill their stomachs with it, for it has made them stumble into sin. Eze 7:19**

Greed may leave us unprepared to face God's coming judgement: although greed is not specifically mentioned in this passage, it's possible that by focusing on getting rich, we will be so preoccupied with this obsession that we may be caught unprepared to face God's judgement. In the day of judgement, the greedy will realize that their wealth cannot save them—but it will be too late. Let's endeavor to live Godly lives and to be ready for Christ's appearing.

Greed may cause us to pursue worthless things

■ **Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain. Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word.** Psalm 119:36-37

Greed may cause us to pursue worthless things. A passionate pursuit of more and more of this world's goods may blind us to heavenly values and cause us to waste our lives in the pursuit of worthless things. David in his wisdom saw this as expressed in Psalm 119:36-37.

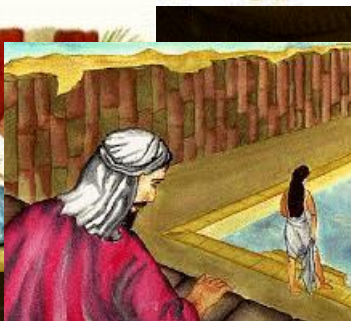
Greed may cost us an inheritance in the Kingdom of God

- **You can be sure that no immoral, impure, or greedy person will inherit the Kingdom of Christ and of God. For a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. Eph 5:5 (NLT)**
- **Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God. 1 Cor 6:9-10 (NLT)**

Greed may cost us an inheritance in the Kingdom of God: The Bible makes it clear that no greedy person has an inheritance in heaven. Let's read Eph 5:5 and 1 Cor 6:9-10. These verses penetrate deep into our hearts. Let's guard ourselves through the power of the Holy Spirit against the love of money and the passionate pursuit of wealth. If God blesses us with a measure of wealth we should not rely upon it for security or for happiness but to consider ourselves as stewards of this token of his grace towards us.

31 Examples of greed and covetousness in the Bible

Source: internet



31 Examples of greed and covetousness in the Bible: here is a list several instances of greed that are recorded in Scripture. These were found on a website. They are included here as a reminder that the love of money has been a characteristic of human nature from the time of Adam, even among God's people. We won't discuss each case, although most of them will be familiar to you. I will highlight a few of them as we go through the next several slides. Keep in mind that these were people just like us.

Examples of greed and covetness

- **Eve, in desiring the forbidden fruit** Gen 3:6
- **Lot, in choosing the plain of the Jordan** Gen 13:10-13
- **Laban-**
 - **In giving Rebekah to be Isaac's wife** Gen 24:29- 51
 - **In deceiving Jacob when he served him seven years for Rachel** Gen 29:15-30
 - **In deceiving Jacob in wages** Gen 31:7; Gen 31:15; Gen 31:41-42 >

**31 Examples of greed and covetousness in the Bible:
Eve, Lot, Laban**

Examples of greed and covetness

■ Jacob:

▶ **In defrauding Esau of his father's blessing** Gen 27:6-29

▶ **In defrauding Laban of his flocks and herds** Gen 30:35-43

▶ **In buying Esau's birthright** Gen 25:31

■ **Balaam, in loving the wages of unrighteousness** 2 Pet 2:15; Num 22

■ **Achan, in hiding the forbidden treasure**

Josh 7:21 >

31 Examples of greed and covetousness in the Bible:
Jacob, Balaam, Achan

Examples of greed and covetness

- **Eli's sons, in taking the flesh of the sacrifice** 1 Sam 2:13-17
- **Samuel's sons, in taking bribes** 1 Sam 8:3
- **Saul, in sparing Agag and the booty** 1 Sam 15:8-9
- **David, of Bathsheba** 2 Sam 11:2-5
- **Ahab, in desiring Naboth's vineyard** 1 Kings 21:2-16 >

31 Examples of greed and covetousness in the Bible:
Eli's sons, Samuel's sons, Saul, David, Ahab

Examples of greed and covetness

■ **Gehazi, in taking a gift from Naaman** 2 Kin 5:20-27

■ **Jews--**

▶ **In exacting usury of their brethren** Neh 5:1-11

▶ **In keeping back the portion of the Levites** Neh 13:10

▶ **In building fine houses while the house of the Lord lay waste** Hag 1:4-9

▶ **In following Jesus for the loaves and fishes** John 6:26 >

31 Examples of greed and covetousness in the Bible
Gehazi, the Jews

Examples of greed and covetness

- **Money changers in the temple** Matt 21:12-13; Luke 19:45-46; John 2:14-16
- **The rich young ruler** Matt 19:16-22
- **The rich fool** Luke 12:15-21
- **Judas, in betraying Jesus for thirty pieces of silver** Matt 26:15-16; Mark 14:10-11; Luke 22:3-6; John 12:6
- **The unjust steward** Luke 16:1-8 >

31 Examples of greed and covetousness in the Bible:
Money changers in the temple, the rich young ruler, the rich fool, Judas, the unjust steward

Examples of greed and covetness

- **The Pharisees** Luke 16:14
- **Simon Magus, in trying to buy the gift of the Holy Ghost** Acts 8:18-23
- **The sorcerers, in filing complaint against Paul and Silas** Acts 16:19
- **Demetrius, in raising a riot against Paul and Silas** Acts 19:24; Acts 19:27
- **Festus, in hoping for a bribe from Paul** Acts 24:26
- **Demas, in forsaking Paul for love of the world** 2 Tim 4:10 > end of list

31 Examples of greed and covetousness in the Bible:
the Pharisees, Simon Magus, the sorcerers, Demetrius,
Festus, and Demas

Quiz

Multiple choice or True/False

- **Create one or more quizzes that deal with this module**
- **Usually 4 or 5 choices or statements work best for each quiz**
- **After allowing a minute or two for the students to complete the quiz, go over the answers. For false statements, ask the class what change could be made to make the statement true**

Quiz

Questions for discussion

- **How would you define the difference between the love of money and greed (covetness)?**
- **Do you have a story about a Christian who fell victim to love of money or greed? Was there a happy ending?**
- **What warning signs of greed or love of money have you detected within your heart? How did you deal with them?**

Questions for discussion

7 godly attitudes towards money

A Spirit-filled life is the key

- Don't make becoming rich our passion or purpose
- Keep in mind that God owns all we possess, and seek His purposes for them
- Thank God daily for our blessings
- Be content with what we have
- Practice living on less than we make
- Be ready to share our resources with others who are in need, particularly our Christian family
- If God does entrust us with financial blessings, develop a (written) plan for stewarding them >

7 Godly attitudes towards money: how do we combat the tendency towards greed and the love of money in our own lives? Here are some suggested ways of developing a godly attitude towards our material possessions.

We can

- Avoid developing a greedy heart is to make a decision of the will. We can decide that we will not make becoming rich our passion or chief purpose in our lives.
- Keep in mind that God retains his ownership of everything that we have and seek his will for what he has entrusted to us.
- Thank God daily for the blessings he has given us.
- Practice contentment.
- Develop the habit of living on less than we make
- Practice generosity by sharing some our saved resources with others.

If God does bless us financially, we can seek his plan for those gifts. What attitudes and practices have you found to be effective in your life to guard against greed and covetousness?

The most important thing

Develop a deep, loving, obedient relationship
with the Lord Jesus Christ



"No man can serve two masters"

The most important thing: the most important thing that I believe we can do is to guard our heart against material things is to maintain an intimate relationship with Christ. Our goal for our daily walk should be a moment-by-moment submission of ourselves to the leading of the Holy Spirit. We can offer ourselves as living sacrifices to God. As we put to death our fleshly desires, he will use our resources to accomplish his purposes in us.

Summary

- The **love of money** is a root of all kinds of evil.
- Greed and love of money are both enemies of our soul
- We do well to examine ourselves for the warning signs of falling in love with our money and evidence that we are cultivating a greedy heart
- Practice godly attitudes towards money

Above all else, pursue our relationship with Christ and be satisfied with his love.



Summary: I am so thankful that Scriptures teach us that the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. It is a reminder that this life is transitory and beset with temptations that can ruin our spiritual lives.

Greed is an enemy of our souls and many good people have fallen victim to it.

We should examine ourselves for signs that we are beginning to cherish our money and ask God to remove them by his grace.

To combat greed, we should live unselfish lives which bless others and depend on God for our needs.

Above all else we are admonished to pursue a daily, moment by moment, close walk with the Lord Jesus because the Holy Spirit is

the only one that can protect us from our fleshly desires.

Multiple choice quiz

Three of the following statements are true warning signs of greed. Which one is not a warning sign (false)?

- a. Contentment with what we have
- b. We always have overdue bills to pay
- c. We are jealous of our neighbor's scooter
- d. We constantly think about getting rich quickly

Quiz

Multiple choice quiz

Three of the following statements are true of greed? Which one is false?

- a. Greed may bring God's discipline on us
- b. Greed may cost us Christian friendships
- c. Greed is an acceptable motive for achieving wealth
- d. Greed will prevent us from inheriting God's Kingdom

Quiz

Ten biblical principles about money and wealth

A survey of Scripture

1. God owns everything and we are His stewards
2. Worship and trust God rather than money
- 3. Beware of the love of money**
4. God cares how we manage our money
5. Honor God by faithfully giving of our income
6. Develop a lifestyle which creates margin
7. Cultivate a generous heart and live sacrificially
8. Care for the poor, weak, oppressed, and needy
9. Use wealth to glorify God and build treasure in heaven
10. Pursue the true riches rather than material wealth

Principle #3 Beware of the love of money: end of module