

Biblical financial principles

A survey of Scripture

I. Introduction

II. A survey of Biblical teaching on money and wealth

III. 10 Biblical principles about money and wealth

- 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, the weak, the oppressed, and the needy**
- 9. Use wealth to glorify God and build treasure in heaven**
- 10. Pursue the true riches rather than material wealth**

IV. Money and the family

V. Money and the Church

VI. Business principles and the Kingdom

VII. Money and Society

Biblical financial principles: Money and the family

IV. Money and the family



IV. Money and your family: the previous 10 principles apply to us as individuals. They provide a framework for each of us to make Godly decisions in the area of our personal finances. Let's now look at scriptural financial principles that apply to the family unit.

A. Train our children

- To be financially responsible
- To be kind to the poor
- To be generous and faithful givers



A. Train our children: the first section deals with the principle of training our children. It is important to begin training our children to handle money when they're very little. As Christians, we want to train our children to

- Be financially responsible. This includes, in an age-appropriate manner, teaching them the ethics of hard work and honesty; the disciplines of thriftiness and smart shopping; the basics of budgeting; the value of creating margin and saving; and even the basic principles of investing.
- Be kind to the poor and needy; the widows and fatherless. Perhaps this virtue is best taught through our actions.
- Honor God with their income. I believe we need to teach our children that. because God owns everything we have, we honor him by being faithful, generous, and cheerful givers. Once again, our actions will speak louder than words.

The background of the slide features a light gray silhouette of a man and a woman facing each other, with their heads slightly bowed. The man is on the right and the woman is on the left. The title 'Training is necessary' is written in red text across the top of the image.

Training is necessary

- We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done. He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands. Psalm 78:4-7

Training is necessary: Children will not learn money management principles on their own. They must be taught and shown. This requires parents who are informed on the subject, practice sound financial principles, and commit to train their children with intentionality, consistency, planning, and discipline. The responsibility for training children financial responsibility applies not just to their parents, but also to their grandparents and extended family.

We know from Scripture as well as from experience, children must be taught to do good. Since they seem to naturally learn how to misbehave, training them in godliness, including how to handle the resources God gives them, is something that must be done intentionally and proactively. As parents, we must rely on the Holy Spirit to accomplish this through us. Let's read Ephesians 6: 4.

Training requires Godly wisdom

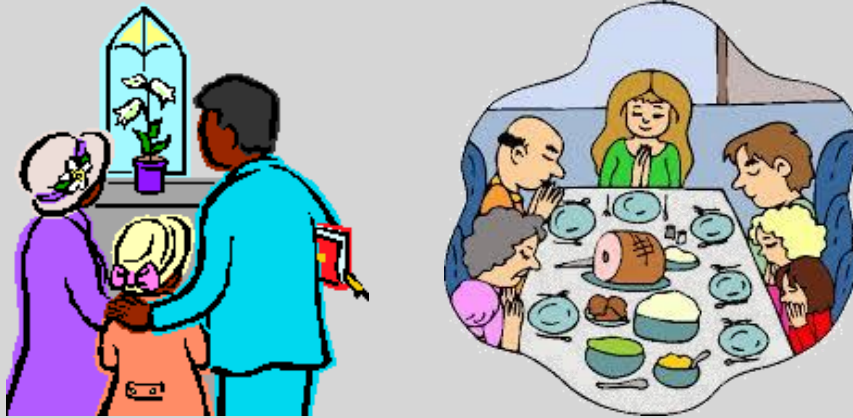
- **Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.** Ephesians 6:4
- **We are not to use our own wisdom, but rather rely on the instruction found in the Word of God.**



Training requires Godly wisdom: training children to have a biblical perspective on money requires godly wisdom. We gain that through our study of Scripture and through the counsel of godly people. We acknowledge that many biblical principles regarding money and wealth are also concepts and practices found in worldly wisdom. But sometimes, worldly principles are built on half-truths or selfish motives. Other times they are simply contradictory to biblical teaching. It takes godly wisdom for parents to navigate through this area of life to properly explain both obvious and subtle differences to their children.

Train our children while they are young

- Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6



Train our children while they are young: training should begin when our children are young. When it comes to encouraging our children to become faithful, generous and cheerful givers, I'm sure most of us would agree that the best way to do that is to model it for them. We're familiar with the adage "children do what we do, not what we say". So if we consistently demonstrate these giving virtues, we have reason to hope that our children will develop similar values as they grow up.

Children can be encouraged to give a portion of their income to the Lord's work, even at an early age. If we represent God's work as important to us, the children may adopt that same sense of priority. So even when they are little, our children can be encouraged to make generous gifts to the Lord's work out of whatever they receive. I was surprised and very impressed at how generous my children were with their money when they were young. It was not uncommon, if they received a dollar as a gift, for them to put 20%, 30%, or even more, in the offering plate. I actually think they were the teachers and I was the student during that precious time of their lives. Other things that we can do to help teach our children is to give them simple learning experiences. For example, when the offering plate is being passed in church, some parents let their children drop the money into the plate. If we give a gift to the poor on the street, we can let the children give it to them and even encourage them to join in this good deed with some of their own money.

Training is a continual process

- These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. Deuteronomy 6:6-9



Training is a continual process: let's remember that patience and perseverance are virtues when it comes to training our children in godliness. It's a continual process and takes a lot of work. It's good to remember that we are always teaching, and occasionally we use words. Let's read Deuteronomy 6:6-9. May send any has a weekly bible study with his own children. This is a valuable influence that may be even more effective than the instruction they receive at church.

Our lives influence our grandchildren



- I remember your genuine faith, for you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice. And I know that same faith continues strong in you. 2 Timothy 1:5 (NLT)
- But the love of the LORD remains forever with those who fear him. His salvation extends to the children's children. Psalm 103:17 (NLT)

Our lives influence our grandchildren: we know that the way we live our lives can influence not only our children but our grandchildren. As a grandfather, I look for ways that I can influence my grandchildren to love the Lord and live for him. Let's read 2 Timothy 1:5 and Psalms 103:70.

Be a role model

And a prayer warrior

- **Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.** ¹ Timothy 4:12 (NLT)
- **Dear brothers and sisters, pattern your lives after mine, and learn from those who follow our example.** Philippians 3:17 (NLT)



Be a role model: We have already seen that setting a good example may be the best way to teach Christian stewardship to your children. Let's read 1 Timothy 4:12 and Philippians 3:17. And the power of prayer cannot be overemphasized. How many of us have had our lives changed through the prayers of a mother or grandmother?

A story of giving gifts to Jesus

The Kluth Christmas tradition



A story of giving gifts to Jesus: Brian Kluth shares the story of one of the things he and his wife Sandy did at Christmas to encourage their children to be generous. When they started doing this, they continued it for several years. Thus, it became a Kluth family Christmas tradition. Excerpts from “7 Keys to Open-Handed Living in a Tight- fisted World” by Brian Kluth, kluth.org.

Jesus gets the biggest present

A Kluth Christmas tradition

- Each fall, the children would tell Brian and Sandi all the things they wanted for Christmas that year
- They noticed that the children would request more and bigger toys each year
- One Christmas Brian asked them “Whose birthday are we celebrating?”
- “Jesus, but he’s not here” they answered.
- They then explained to their children that when we help the least, the lost, the lonely, and God’s leaders, it is like giving Christmas presents to Jesus. >

Jesus gets the biggest present: Here’s how the tradition got started. Each fall the children would tell Brian and Sandi all the things they wanted for Christmas that year. As they got older they noticed that the children would request more expensive things. Finally, one Christmas season, after his children made expensive requests, Brian asked them “whose birthday are we celebrating?”

“It’s Jesus birthday, but he’s not here” they answered. Then they explained to their children that when we give gifts to the poor, the lost, and the lonely, it is like giving Christmas presents to Jesus himself.

Remembering Jesus at Christmas

Source: Kluth, 7 Keys, day 27

- Brian reasoned that since it was Jesus birthday, he should get the biggest present
- That Christmas, the parents gave their children an envelope with a large amount of cash inside
- Based on a list of suggestions contained in the envelope, each child decided to whom to give and how much to give
- It is a new tradition that has been repeated every year
- They want their children to learn that Christmas is about giving to others, not getting for themselves
- They are also learning that when we give to the needy, we are giving to God >

Remembering Jesus at Christmas: They reasoned that since it was Jesus birthday, he should get the biggest present. So that year, Brian and Sandi gave their children an envelope with a large amount of cash inside. The amount was intentionally greater than the cost of the gifts the children requested for themselves. Then they gave the children a list of suggested recipients for the cash in the envelope, reminding them that they represented Jesus because of their need. Each child was then allowed to choose from that list, deciding to whom and how much to give. Brian continued this tradition for several years. They wanted their children to learn that Christmas is about giving to others in Jesus name, not about getting for themselves.

Giving gifts to Jesus

A cup of cold water given to the least of his brethren

- And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward." Matthew 10:42
- "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' Matthew 25:37-40

Giving gifts to Jesus: What Brian and Sandi taught their children about the relationship between giving to others and giving to Jesus has a sound theological basis. When we give to the poor, and especially to a needy believer, we truly are giving to Jesus. This is a powerful life principle, demonstrated in Matthew 10:42 and Matthew 25:37-40. Let's read these passages.

Stones of remembrance

Wilkin family tradition



Stones of remembrance: here is a tradition that we began doing with our grandchildren many years ago. We call it the ceremony of “Stones of Remembrance”. We use this ceremony to teach our grandchildren to be aware of the blessings that God has given them and to tell others (us) what he has done for them.

Testimonies from our grandchildren

- Our grandchildren around the country, so we only see them a few times each year.
- When they were younger and visited us in our home, I would invite them to the table one by one
- Each grand child would tell me what they are thankful for, what God has blessed them with, what he means to them, their goals for the year, or some other testimony
- I write down what they say in a little red journal
- After sharing with me, they then would drop a glass “Stone of Remembrance” into the jar
- Over the years the stones have piled up
- The journal is a record of one aspect of their development while they were growing >

Testimonies from my grandchildren: our grandchildren are scattered across the United States, so we get to see them only a few times each year. When they visit our home we invite them one by one to have a conversation with papa. Each grandchild tells me what they are thankful for, what Jesus means to them, their hope for the coming year, or some other testimony. I record their thoughts in a little red journal. Then, when they’re finished, they get to drop a “stone of remembrance” into the jar. Over the years, the stones have piled up. The jar is a graphical symbol of what ancient Israel did to remember God’s provision, and is one aspect of their development as Christian young people. I have been blessed by their testimonies. Later on, when they are adults we hope they will go through the journal and remember that Jesus was important to them as little children. Hopefully this will encourage them to do the same with their own children.

B. Leave an inheritance to our children and grandchildren

- **Good people leave an inheritance to their grandchildren, but the sinner's wealth passes to the godly.** Proverbs 13:22 (NLT)
 - **A spiritual inheritance is your most important legacy**
 - **A financial nest-egg could be helpful to your heirs to pay for a major illness, loss of employment, higher education, supporting the Lord's work, or becoming a missionary**
 - **Teach them Godly stewardship while you are alive**
 - **Consider a trustee to manage this money until they are in their late 20's to protect against wasteful spending while they are young adults**
 - **One man I know decided to apportion 1/4 of his bequest to his children at ages 28, 35, 42, and 49 >**

B. Leave an inheritance to your children and grandchildren: another principle regarding money and the family is to leave an inheritance to your children and grandchildren. Let's read Proverbs 13:22. More important than a financial legacy, of course, is leaving a spiritual legacy to our descendants. But leaving a financial inheritance to them, with proper teaching, provides a nest-egg which could prove helpful to them should they experience a major illness, lose their employment, wish to start a business, or go to the Mission Field. If we have taught them godly stewardship while we were alive, it is our hope that they would use that money responsibly after we are gone. For larger bequests, it may be good stewardship to empower a trustee to guard their inheritance and oversee its distribution until they are old enough to manage it themselves. You might also consider spreading out their inheritance over a period of years rather than giving it to them in one lump sum. This will further help protect your legacy because as they get older, it is our hope that they will become wiser. I know of one man who decided to apportion his bequest into four equal portions, to be distributed every seven years to his children beginning at age 21. Your attorney or financial counsellor can advise you in this matter.

C. Our spouse has an important role in our financial stewardship

The husband is the leader but not the king

“Happy wife, happy life”

- The husband is under the Headship of Christ
- The husband should act in the best interests of his wife and family, not himself:
- For husbands, this means loving your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her Ephesians 5:25 (NLT)
- The husband should seek the wife’s agreement on major financial decisions. This shows that he respects her wisdom and promotes oneness in their marriage
- The wife can play an important role in bookkeeping, budget management, and long-range planning

C. Your spouse has an important role in your financial stewardship: your spouse is an important partner in your financial stewardship. We know from biblical teaching that the husband is the head of the family, but he is not the king. So a husband does well to bring his wife alongside in financial matters so that the two of them are agreed in this important area. The husband should act in the best interests of his wife and family, not himself. I learned through sound biblical teaching (eg Eph 5:25), that my responsibility as a husband was not only to love my wife but also to give myself up for her just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for it.

The husband should seek his wife’s counsel on major financial decisions. This shows that he respects her wisdom and promotes oneness in the marriage. Our wives can play an important role in managing our finances, including bookkeeping, budget creation and management, and long-range planning. I don’t think it is unusual to find that the better financial manager in the family is the wife, not the husband. Men, we do well to recognize and honor the gifts and talents of our wives.

D. Develop a family financial plan

- Ask God to reveal to us his plan for our lives as stewards
- Share the plan with our spouse and gain agreement
- Set short and long term goals consistent with our plan
- Include the needs of our children (eg, education) and even our grandchildren
- Share our plan with our children and find ways they can participate in it
- Review the plan occasionally with our spouse in a quiet place >

D. Develop a family financial plan: ask God to reveal his financial plan for your family to you and your spouse. Set short-term and long-term goals consistent with that plan and include the needs of your children and grandchildren. Share your plan in an age-appropriate way with your children and find ways they can participate in it. Review that plan occasionally in a quiet place and make changes as necessary. Jim Dobson, founder of Focus on the Family, set aside some time each calendar quarter for he and his wife to get away and do some long-range planning.

The background of the slide features a light gray silhouette of a man and a woman facing each other, suggesting a family or a couple. The man is on the right, and the woman is on the left.

Class discussion

Family practice

- **Do you have a plan for teaching your family Biblical financial principles?**
- **What is your spouses role in developing your family financial plan? What other people and resources should you consult in developing the plan?**
- **Have you engaged your children in developing the plan? Why or why not?**
- **To what extent should you share your family financial plan with your children >**

Class discussion



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

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VII. Money and Society

Biblical teaching about money and wealth: end of module