

Men's Conference 2011 – Wes Cantrell, Sr.

Character or Currency - Measuring business success

I would not be poor! Although it was unknown to me at the time, that was a profound commitment that would have a detrimental impact on my life.

I. Everyone needs money, but when it occupies the _____ in your life, there's trouble ahead.

The profit motive is a _____, and the free-market system wouldn't survive without it. However, when there is a _____ deficit, the profit motive can morph into an ugly thing—greed. Incentives work quite well in a free-market environment, but they can be horribly distorted by the _____ of money.

II. We had often heard our pastor say, "There is a direct _____ between a man's wallet and his heart."

- 'For God loves a person who gives cheerfully'" (2 Corinthians 9:6-7 NLT).
- Would my life be focused on wealth—or wisdom?
- The unsurpassed antidote for greed is _____.

His blessing is abundant with a special measure of contentment, and it may or may not include material wealth (I Timothy 6:6).

You're never more like Jesus than when you're giving.—Johnny Hunt

There are more than _____ verses in the Bible that deal with money.

"One-fifth of all Jesus had to say was about money!" —Billy Graham

III. First Timothy 6:5-12 greatly impacted my thinking about money. In these verses, we find the following powerful lessons.

- We should not be misled by making lots of money and confuse this with _____ (v. 5).
- We should separate ourselves from those who believe this false sign of God's blessing—that monetary prosperity is God's _____ (v. 5).
- We cannot _____ our wealth with us (v. 7). Others will enjoy what we worked so hard to accumulate (Proverbs 5:10).
- We should be _____ with the basic necessities of life. God has promised to provide for our basic needs. Contentment is the best evidence of godliness (vv. 6, 8).
- The desire to be rich is a _____ that leads to destruction (v. 9).
- The love of money is exceptionally powerful and is a _____ in all evil. The motive involves a craving that leads away from devotion and brings mental anguish (v. 10).
- Those who place their happiness in wealth are subject to _____ snares. Qualities evoked by materialism lead to many other problems. When Satan sees which way lusts are leading, he baits his hook accordingly. Greed pulls one away from a devoted walk with the Lord (v. 10).
- People may have money and yet _____ it. Some of God's great men of the Bible were wealthy. A few of these are Abraham, Isaac, Job, David, Zacchaeus (the wealthy tax collector who gave half of his wealth to the poor after he met Jesus), and Joseph of Arimathea.
- Matthew 6:24 explains, "No one can serve two masters, for 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 God and money." NLT

IV. Wealth can have an incredible impact on a _____ relationship.

- Second Corinthians 12:14 says, “The children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.”
- When it comes to taxes, _____ falls in the category of *keeping*.

Proverbs makes it clear that “get rich quick” schemes are to be avoided (Proverbs 28:20, 22).

“The eyes of man are never satisfied” (Proverbs 27:20).

Guidelines for giving

- Always give to God—not to man or _____ .
- Always give from God’s _____ —not your own.
- Always give by _____ —not reason.

We recognize that we are “only conveyors of His resources.” Proverbs 21:26 (NLT) explains, [The wicked] are always greedy for more, while the godly love to give!

Retirement: In Numbers 8:25, the priests retired from conducting their regular _____ at 50 years of age, but they continued to serve in other ways

Stepping stones to Financial Freedom

1. Investigate the _____ regarding money—the Bible contains over 500 verses on the subject.
2. Distinguish between an honest _____ motive and greed.
3. Become a _____ not a taker. The antidote for greed is giving and gratitude.
4. Protect against the “love of money”—the desire to be _____ is a trap.
5. Money is not necessarily a sign of godliness—the true blessing of the Lord is _____.
6. Trust the Lord for your _____. It is ultimately Him who supplies your every need
(Colossians 3:24).
7. Pay your _____ cheerfully!
8. Cap your _____ and give away the surplus.
9. Focus on true _____.

>A great platform for measuring success is being more concerned about the success of your followers than your own success! >Someone has said that success is measured by how much you have accomplished in life as compared to how much you could have done if you realized your full potential.

Bernadine’s definition: “when one is engaged in work which provides satisfaction and a sense of significance, has a good name and reputation, has a rich personal relationship with their spouse and family, and is habitually all out for God.”

“God does have a plan for success, and, although it’s unique for each individual, it is common in three ways:

God never provides success at the expense of serving Him first.

God never provides success at the expense of our peace.

God never provides success at the expense of the family.”

—Larry Burkett