

Money

1 Tim. 6:5-11 "... supposing that gain is godliness ... But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and persition. For the love of money is the root of all evil. ..."

It is not money, but the **love of** money that is the root of all evil. (i.e., all *kinds* of evil)

treason, sexual uncleanness, covetousness, murder, thieving, ...
most of politics
lobby groups (NEA, big labor)
organized crime (mafia, drug cartels, Planned Parenthood)
radio and TV preachers (many, at least)
confiscatory taxes aimed at the wealthy
litigious society, frivolous lawsuits
absurd jury judgments against big corporations
state involvement in lotteries, casinos, and tobacco taxes

Covetousness is the real issue. Col. 3:5 "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth ...and covetousness, which is idolatry."

Money-love is unrelated to the amount of money you actually have. The poor can be as guilty of money-love as the rich, being consumed by covetousness, greed and envy.

Money-love is the root, and the branches are covetousness, greed, envy, jealousy, murder, theft, etc. **Pruning the branches won't help** – they will just keep coming back or sprouting up in new forms. The answer is to attack the main cause – the money-love that is feeding the branches. Allow God to purge you of the unclean lust for money, and the branches will wither on their own. Then we will be able to use money properly.

Money itself is not evil.

Prov. 13:22 "A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just."

Dt. 8:18 "But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant ..."

Abraham and David and Solomon and Job were rich men, but were also rich toward God. On the other hand, Jesus and the apostles were not rich (but they weren't destitute either).

Purpose and benefits of money

1. medium of exchange
2. means of convenient storage of accumulated labor (buffer against ups and downs of production)
3. allows specialization of labor
4. enables convenient travel

Misuses of money

1. having accumulation as a goal in itself
2. using it as a weapon or a lever to gain advantage over others
3. spending it for ostentatious display (pride)
4. spending it all on self
5. using it as a measurement of success
6. using it as an alternative to trust in God
7. refusing to spend it

So what advice do we get from God's Word on wealth?

1. There are right and wrong ways to get wealth.
 - a. Prov. 13:11 "Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase."
2. Don't seek it.
 - a. Prov. 28:20 "A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent."
 - b. Mt. 6:19-34 "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, ... But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven... For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. ... No man can serve two masters... Ye cannot serve God and mammon. ... Take no thought ... after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. ..."
3. If it comes, don't become a slave to it.
 - a. Ps. 62:10 - ... if riches increase, set not your heart upon them."
4. Realize that you are a steward of what God has given, and have a responsibility to use your wealth properly.
 - a. 1 Tim. 6:17-19 "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life."
 - b. See yourself as a hose, not a pool (a responsible disperser of wealth, not a collector)
5. Realize that riches are not permanent.
 - a. Prov. 23:5 "...riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven."
6. Recognize the dangers and deceptiveness of wealth.
 - a. Ec. 5:10 - "He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity."
 - b. Mk. 4:19 "And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things ..."
 - c. 1 Tim. 6:17 "... be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God..."
 - d. Zeph. 1:18 "Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord's wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the wrath of his jealousy ..."
7. Learn that real wealth is in godliness with contentment. (1 Tim. 6:6)