

Love of Money

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“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 6:10

Welcome

Last Will & Testament

Give each of your members a clean sheet of paper. Ask them to list down all of their material possessions as of this moment (i.e. savings, gadgets, clothes, shoes, books, etc.) Give them enough time to think and write down as many items as possible.

Next, tell them that if they are to die tomorrow, to whom shall they give all of the things they have written down. Give them time to reflect and complete their will.

Ask some (if the group is too big) volunteers to share their *will* to the group.

Transition Statement: This simple activity reminded us that nothing is permanent in this world and that we cannot take anything with us the moment we die. But in Christ, we can find satisfaction that lasts for eternity.

Worship

Lead the group in prayer. Suggested worship song: “Enough” by Barlow Girls

Word

Hook: What do you think is the most expensive thing you’ve bought?

Book: Wealth is morally neutral; there is nothing wrong with money, in and of itself. When money begins to control us, that’s when trouble starts.

Symptoms of Loving Money

1. An Obsession with Becoming Rich

“Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.” – 1 Timothy 6:9

2. A Discontented Spirit

“Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless.” – Ecclesiastes 5:10

3. Living Outside Your Means

“There is precious treasure and oil in the dwelling of the wise, but a foolish man swallows it up.” – Proverbs 21:20

4. You are Known to Be Greedy

“A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.” – Proverbs 22:1

5. Materialism

“I also want the women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, adorning themselves, not with elaborate hairstyles or gold or pearls or expensive clothes.” – 1 Timothy 2:9

6. Regular Conflicts Because of Money

“If anyone teaches otherwise and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, they are conceited and understand nothing. They have an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions and constant friction between people of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.” – 1 Timothy 6:3-5

7. You Forget Your Main Source

“But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.” – Deuteronomy 8:18

*Ways How to Unlove Money***1. Practice Cheerful Giving**

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” – 2 Corinthians 9:7

God does not demand anything from us. He prefers that we give willingly out of the abundance of our hearts. For us to become cheerful givers, we must have an attitude of gratitude; not forgetting all the blessings (material or not) that God has showered upon us and learning to share such to those in need.

2. Accountability Partner

Money is not an easy thing to handle. Not that it's complicated but because our hearts are deceitful. We get easily swayed by peer pressure and we tend to keep up with what's the latest fad. We need someone we can trust and who we know is a good steward and disciplined enough to guide us with money matters.

3. Honor Your Source of Blessings

"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops." – Proverbs 3:9

"Bring the best of the firstfruits of your soil to the house of the Lord your God. – Exodus 23:19

God deserves the best and not what's left. When we make it a practice to set apart what belongs to God first before making any personal spending, our hearts are being disciplined to prioritize the Lord over our wants and needs. We must love the giver more than the gift.

4. Don't Feed the Greed

Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." – Luke 12:15

"Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry." – Colossians 3:5

Live within your means. Stop getting more than what you need. Satisfying the human wants is an endless chase. There is nothing in this world that can meet our greatest need.

5. Be content.

"I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want." – Philippians 4:12

Happy are those who get what they want but blessed are those who find contentment in what they have. Stop looking at your neighbor's plate and fill your heart with thanksgiving.

6. Store Up Treasures in Heaven

“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.” – 1 Timothy 6:17-19

Earning Rewards in Heaven

1. Winning Souls (John 4:36)
2. Serving Those Who Preach (Matt.10:42, Mark 9:41)
3. Enduring Persecution (Matt.5:11, Luke 6:22-23, Rev.2:10)
4. Giving to the Work of the Lord (Phil.4:15)
5. Laboring in Prayer (Matt.6:6, Colossians 4:12)
6. Any Good Works that We Do (1 Cor.3:11-15)
7. Relieving the Afflicted (Matt.25:40-45,1 John 3:17)
8. Leaving Everything Behind for the Sake of the Lord (Matt.10:21,30)

Don't live your life for gold. Live for the One who can take you to a place where gold is just for feet to walk on.

7. Submit to Jesus as Your Only Master

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” – Matthew 6:24

“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

God wants us to own money, but He doesn't want the money to own us. He wants us to control money, not for money to control us.

Look: Among all the given symptoms, what are you guilty of or struggling the most?

Took: What particular things would you like to start doing that will help in guarding your heart from the love of money?

Take note of your members answers and make sure to follow them up throughout the week.

Works

Encourage everyone to find an accountability partner within the group and make a commitment to be accountable with their tithes and offering.

Ask everyone for their personal prayer requests then lead the group in prayer.