

The Dynamic Marriage

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Stewardship/ TIME AND MONEY

Spending time and money in the Presence of God

Key Thought: *Most people live like money will do what it promises and that God won't do what He promises.*

Foundational Truth Matt 6:24-26

24 "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. 25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? NIV

- Two masters identify the pull to be obedient to the Lord over obedience to your finances, time and your life. Both "masters" require equal efforts on your part, but they cannot co-exist for very long before they crash.
- Master 1 What we eat/drink and wear. Our flesh/self/and material 'STUFF">OUR NEEDS
- Master 2 The Lord Jesus Christ / our relationship with Him.
- Master Switch> Let the master of everything order it all.

The Endless Cycle Eccl 5:10

10 Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless. NIV

- Our finances are about freeing us to do the work of the kingdom, not to just keep ourselves a float.
- Our marriage allows us to grow in stewardship and hope with a vision. Money alone restricts our growth to just taking care of business, every day.
- The bottom line is; what really fulfills the desires of our heart? The fullness of God's word and truth impacting our lives and changing us. Being our fulfillment alone.

Question? What forces {good or bad} have most shaped your {healthy or challenging} view of money? How has that impacted your marriage?

The Roles (MFL)

Husband: The Provider

- 1 Tim 5:8 > 8 if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. NIV
 - God has called the husband (understood in the period this was written) to supply for the care of the family. Provision and Protection
 - Men are called to provide in whatever way they can.
 - The attitude is to supply the physical provision and the spiritual care.
 - The attitude is bigger than just "food on the table"

Wife: The Administrator

- Prov 31:25-27> 25 She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. 26 She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. 27 She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. NIV
 - She is not idle waiting to be taken care of. She is taking care of that which is provided. Not just maintaining, but investing and attentive to “her household” which includes her husband.

Team: the Vision

- 2 Cor 9:10-12>10 Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and **increase the harvest of your righteousness**; 11 you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God. NASU
 - The vision attitude will direct us to use all that God gives us for His vision, not ours alone.
 - Debt is seen in light of God’s vision for us to touch lives for Him. Restrictive debt defines who we are: restricted, deceptive, deny the vision for our life. We are unable to reach the vision that He has set for us as a family.
 - Righteousness: Greek means> right-wise-ness.
 - Whatever conforms to the Word of God.
 - Whatever has been appointed by God to be obeyed by man.
 - A right relationship with God
- Stop the Vision: Gal 1:10>10 Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ. NIV
 - The \$ and the time are relative to the “approval rating” we are looking for.
 - The vision factor that impacts our work for the Lord is related to our focus:
 - Pride Prov 18:12 impact?
 - Selfishness Phil 2:3-4 impact?
 - Idolatry 1 John 5:21 impact?
 - Laziness Prov 13:4 impact?
 - Irresponsibility Prov 25:19 impact?
 - Man-pleasing Gal 1:10 impact?
- Keep the Vision Going:
 - *Repent: Ps 139:23-24*> 23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. 24 See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. NIV
 - Pinpoint an area that God has entrusted to you> grow in faith
 - Seek Godly direction and counsel on how to reach that goal without being anxious.
 - *Study and Pray: Rom 12:2* >Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but **be transformed** by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will. NIV
 - In the Word and in Prayer you hear God’s heart and the heart of your spouse, building the oneness of your relationship.
 - Believe that you are going to be changed as well as your mind renewed and your goals reflecting God’s plan.
 - *Be Accountable: Eph 5:21*>21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.
 - Cause your gifts to build on each other to see His plan unfold.
 - Remember this is about your \$ success for the Lord and His plan.