

# Money – God or Gift? He Owns It – We Use It

Luke 12:13-21

Grace Fellowship Church, Pastor Brad Bigney, January 15, 2012

**I Chronicles 29:11-12** says, “Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty. For all that is in heaven and earth is Yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and You are exalted as head over all. **Both riches and honor come from You** and You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might. In Your hand it is to make great, and to give strength to all.”

## Five Ways you can fight hard to keep money from becoming a god in your life

### I. Don't Let Your World Shrink Down to the Size of Your Latest Money Problem

**Luke 12:13** “Then one from the crowd said to Him, ‘Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.’”

### II. Maintain a Wartime Mentality about Money and Covetousness

**Luke 12:15** “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”

**ESV** “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness...”

**Ephesians 5:3** "But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people."

What starts out as the simple pleasure of getting and owning more turns into the nightmare of being trapped under the weight of temporal stuff and debt that all starts to squeeze the very life out of your soul.

**I Peter 2:11** “Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul.”

### III. Allow Other People to Speak into Your Life about Money

**Luke 12:17** “And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do...?’”

- Do you want God involved in your finances or not?
- Is it your habit to seek out any godly counsel about your giving and your money?

"It's increasingly common for Christians to ask one another the tough questions: How is your marriage? Have you been spending time in the Word? How are you doing in terms of sexual purity? Have you been sharing your faith? But how often do we ask, 'How much are you giving to the Lord?' or 'Have you been robbing God?' or 'Are you winning the battle against materialism?'

When it comes to giving, churches operate under a 'don't ask, don't tell' policy. We lack communication, accountability, and modeling. It's as if we have an unspoken agreement: 'I won't talk about it if you won't, so we can go right on living as we are.' *The Treasure Principle*, Randy Alcorn, p. 81-82

Nowhere in the Bible does it say it's wrong to have riches... and to have great resources... but it does tell us over and over that it's absolutely wrong to live for it... and love it... and selfishly hold onto as much of it as you can.

#### IV. Don't Ignore the Most Important Money Principle

Don't ever lose sight of the fact that you're going to leave every single possession and penny behind... EXCEPT for what you send on ahead by giving it away and investing in God's kingdom.

**Luke 12:20** "But God said to him, 'You fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'"

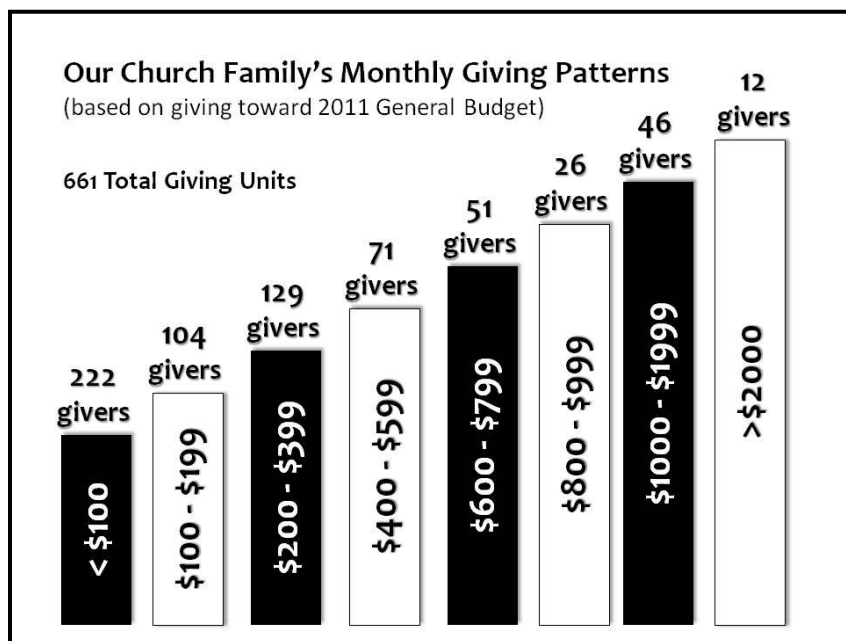
#### V. Plan to be as Rich as You Can Towards God

**Luke 12:21** "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

Being 'rich toward' God means living your life with God and His purposes as your main focus... using things... enjoying things... but not wasting your life trying to see how much you can pile up.

#### Homework

1. Right now write down what % of your income you think you gave away by investing in the church and kingdom business?
2. Go home and look up the ACTUAL FIGURES – and see what you really gave away
3. Find yourself on the giving chart.



- Are you worshipping God with your money... or are you worshipping money as your god? There's a big difference... and this year is a great time to make a change, if you're going in the wrong direction.