

WEALTH & RICHES

Can You Have Too Much?

- I. Are money, wealth and material possession bad? Is God against these things?
 - A. There is also this negative stigma hovers over material wealth like it's bad, unclean and unholy and it defiles
 1. The enemy has worked this thing over to the place where you hear the words *material wealth* in church and people's minds automatically attach negativity to that phrase, that it's wrong, bad, unspiritual
 2. Where are the scriptures where God says money is bad?
 - B. Money and things of themselves are not filthy, shameful or bad
 1. Genesis 2:12-God said the gold was good – **Should we call bad what God calls good?**
 2. Is the earth and it's materials bad? Then neither are the resources and things created from them
 3. Ecclesiastes 7:12-Money is a defense; Ecclesiastes 10:19-Money answers all things
 - C. 1 Timothy 6:9-10-The money itself is not evil, it's the love of money that is evil
 1. Love of money-Avarice (an inordinate desire of gaining and possessing wealth; Insatiable desire of gain, greediness) fond of silver, covetous (to desire inordinately)
 - a. Coveting is not just wanting money it's wanting money too much/so much that you do something wrong to get it
 - b. It's evil to love it because if you want it/love it too much you'll go too far to get it
 2. People think because they don't have much money that covetousness is not an issue for them-Wrong
 - a. If you don't tithe, if you can't let go of what you possess (savings, retirement) you an issue with covetousness
 3. Desiring money is not bad – You can desire it too much for the wrong reasons and that's bad
 - a. Is it bad to desire something good? Is it bad to want what God wants for you?
 - D. Filthy Lucre does not mean money is filthy; Lucre is not money but it is profiting, increasing the wrong way
 1. Lucre-1) OT-Unjust gain 2) Shameful, filthy gain 3) Greedy for money 4) Lucrative and Lucre – The gain is only shameful and filthy if you got it the wrong way; Wanting gain too much so you go too far
 - E. Is having something really nice or really expensive unholy or unclean?
 1. Psalm 81:6-This is eating the very best wheat; Isaiah 1:19-This is consuming (eat) the best (good) the land has to offer; Isaiah 23:18-Plenty of good food and expensive clothes
 - F. Renew your mind – Money is not unclean or unholy and having something really nice is not unclean or unholy
 1. People talk bad and against wealth and material possessions and that is wrong; **Talk against covetousness, loving money, trusting in money, being stingy, poverty, lack**
 - G. Religious tradition teaches that not having anything is a sign of holiness/consecration and if you are serious about God you divulge yourself of all material wealth and if you're holy you're somehow above material wealth and things (All of that leaves the connotation what wealth is bad/unholy/unclean)
 1. You need go with what the Bible actually says about this is and get rid of man made theology/tradition
 2. Many say they are not into material wealth/prosperity with pride like it makes them holy b/c they're above it
 - H. Isaiah 23:17-18-The prosperity of His people is actually the opposite of unclean, it's a holy thing
- II. Two important questions in regards to material wealth 1) How did you get it? 2) What's your relationship with it?
 - A. Most, when they judge someone's prosperity they ask 1) What do they have? 2) How much it cost - **Wrong questions**
 1. 1) How did you get it? – You can get stuff the wrong way (Lying, stealing, disobeying, doing wrong, robbing God)
 2. 2) What's your relationship with it? – Do you love it, trust it, can you let go of it? It can mean too much to you
 - B. There are lots of verses that address the means by which you attain wealth and the relationship you have with wealth; There are zero verses where God puts a limit on how much you can have or how nice of stuff you should have

1. 1Tim6:10-Don't love it; 1Tim6:17-Don't trust it; Mt6:24-Don't serve it; Pr28:16-Don't obtain it unjustly (Oppress poor, lie, violence, usury, steal); 1Tim6:18-Be willing to distribute it; Deut8-Don't forget I gave it to you
 2. God never said don't have it or don't have too much of it; Religion says that, but God doesn't
 3. You having a bunch of wealth doesn't bother God at all and if it were up to Him you'd have a bunch and the best
- C. You don't cross the line in the amount; You cross the line in how you got it and the relationship you have with it
1. When did God rebuke people for having too much money, having something too nice or expensive?
 2. The enemy tries to get you to think that you can cross a line in how much you have or how nice of stuff you have; **This kind of thinking limits what God can do in your life**
 3. Having an abundance of material possessions is not wrong, having a bunch of really nice stuff is not wrong, being wealthy is not wrong; It's wrong to be covetous, to love stuff, to trust in stuff, and to be unwilling to distribute stuff
 - a. Ps112-Can a person have a bunch of money and really nice stuff and be a giver who seeks first the Kingdom?
- D. The enemy has tried paint prosperity as unholy and shame us about having it in attempt to squash our faith
1. The enemy has lead people to think that believing God for an increase of material wealth is unholy or greedy
 - a. 1Tim6:9-You can will to be rich in your love for money or in your love for God, his kingdom, people
 - b. Ps118:25-Send now prosperity; Neh1:11-He prayed, prosper your servant; 3Jn2-He's praying that we prosper
 - c. Proverbs 30:1-Give me neither poverty nor riches; These are the words of a self-proclaimed fool
 2. Psalm 40:8, Psalm 35:27-We're not talking about being greedy, money chasing, having an inordinate desire for money and material gain that would be wrong – We're talking about wanting what God wants for you
 - a. God's people are not hearing this preached, they are not believing for it, asking for it, going after it
 - b. We don't chase money, we chase God but what you'll find is that when you chase Him there's a trail of money
- E. Covetousness is wrong, greed is wrong, loving money is wrong, being selfish is wrong, being stingy is wrong, putting money ahead of God is wrong – Having a bunch of money and stuff is not wrong
- III. Luke 12-Beware of wanting it too much NOT having too much (Covetousness-Greedy Desire to have more, avarice)
- A. Beware of wanting it too much because your life doesn't consist in what you possess
 - B. His problem wasn't that he was rich or that he had too much; His problem was He had no vision beyond himself NOT willing to distribute, not seeking first the Kingdom

NOTE: If wealth is bad why work so hard to get something that's bad-People say they don't believe in prosperity and then come Monday they try to go get some; To prosper is to excel in anything desirable. Do you desire money? How much do you desire money? You desire money so much that you'll wake up first thing in the morning bright and early comb your hair, fix yourself up and go to a place for 8 hours a day for 5 days week for 40 years and do a job you don't even like. You put up with your boss's junk and you stay late and arrive early and it's not because you just love that job so much, it's that you desire the money you get paid. People make sacrifices for money that they won't even make for God. You desire what the money can provide for you (house, clothes, food, electricity, goods). Would you keep g doing that job if they gave you nothing? Then what's the #1 motivating factor for you going down there? The money and the goods that you can turn that money into. If money is so bad then surely you would stop your boss or company from giving you too much. If they wanted to give you a raise and you already have enough then you'd stop them right? All these people that say they don't believe in prosperity are hypocrites, dishonest. People are fine with engaging this work-a-day lifestyle to get money, what makes them mad is when tell them that God would add money to you. They have no problem with spending the good majority of their lives trying to get it, but when you tell them that God wants to add it to them then they are upset. Why are trying so hard to get something that you don't believe God

wants you to have? If you don't believe God wants you to have it then you need to quit trying to get it and the next time they try to give you any kind of raise at work, if you already have enough to get by then you need to say no to that raise. Most would have no problem if they saw a guy who worked for 10 hours a day for 30 years and picked himself up from his own bootstraps and turned his company into a multi million dollar company, in fact many would say that's a good thing, he's a hard worker, good for him. Those same people would get upset if they heard a preacher in church say you sow and reap and obey God and stay in faith and God will increase you and make you wealth beyond your wildest imagination – That makes them mad