

Trinity MOPS Group
5 Biblical Principles of Money Management
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There are approximately 2300 Bible verses dealing with money. Why so many?
"Whoever can be trusted with little can also be trusted with much... whoever is dishonest with little will also be dishonest with much" (Luke 16:10) **HOW WE HANDLE MONEY IS A TEST!!**
If you want to find out where someone's heart is, what they value, look at their check register.

First, find financial peace of mind:

- Gain an eternal perspective
- Make faith-based decisions (pray)
- Seek and employ Biblically wise counsel

This leads to financial security:

- No debt
- Good liquidity
- Well developed plans

Which leads to financial prosperity:

- You will have what God wants you to have
- God will bless you
- You will be building His Kingdom

How do you get on this track? **Here are five Biblical Principles of money management:**

1. Spend less than you make
2. Get out of debt
3. Develop liquidity
4. Set long-term goals
5. Always remember that God owns it all!!

1) Spend less than you make: Set up a budget – with spouse. Seek counsel if needed. See crown.org.

Budgeting priorities:

1. Give to God
2. Get yourself out of debt
3. Put resources towards long-term goals
4. Live on the rest

If this seems impossible, pray. Have you asked God what lifestyle He wants you to live in? What may seem like a necessity (because everyone else has it) may be really a lifestyle choice.

2) Get out of debt: The Bible says no one who is financially bound can be spiritually free. How can you follow God's lead if debt is keeping you where you are? Steps to eliminating debt:

1. Stop borrowing!
2. Learn to trust God. Give Him control of your finances and allow Him to provide
3. Seek counsel if necessary. Christian Credit Counselors (800)796-8709

3) Develop liquidity: Have \$ set aside to cover emergencies and major purchases – this will help you stay out of debt. How much? Rule of thumb is 3-6 months' worth of household living expenses.

4) Set long-term goals:

1. College for kids – save, but give children responsibility of contributing too. Scholarships, grants, etc. Learn how to navigate the FAFSA form. College savings plans include:
 - Coverdell ESA
 - 529 plans
 - UTMA
 - Roth IRAs owned by parents

2. Retirement savings – more important than college savings because there are no scholarships or grants available! Very few employers still offer defined benefit plans (“pensions”), so you need to save for your own retirement through the following vehicles:
 - Employer-sponsored plans (401k, 403b, profit sharing, etc.)
 - Individual retirement savings plans (IRAs, SEPs if self employed, etc.)
 - Non-pension savings (individual or joint accounts)

How much will you need? How much should you save? Everyone is different – customized plan. Are you saving too much? Is that possible? From God’s perspective – yes! It is wise to save but sinful to hoard. See Luke 12:16-21 parable of rich man. Question: what does God want you to do with that money?

Investment management: how you handle the money

Risk management: how you survive when something interrupts the inflow of money. Manage risk with emergency savings, medical insurance, life insurance, disability insurance, long-term care planning.

5) Always remember that God owns it all:

- Are you living as an owner or as a manager?
- Are you living for your desires or for God’s will?
- Do you really “deserve it”? What do we really deserve from God?

We cannot serve two masters (God and money) (Matthew 6:24)

Be diligent in your work: “Whatever you do, do it with all your heart, as working for the Lord” (Colossians 3:23)

Give joyously and generously: “...be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share” (1 Timothy 6:18)

Use resources wisely: “Well done, good and faithful servants” (Matthew 25:21)