

The Debt Trap

Proverbs: Wisdom for Life, Part 7
September 10th, 2017

Warning Signs My Debt Is Out of Control

- I don't know how much I **OWE**
- I pay the **MINIMUM** due on my credit cards
- I **MISS** payments or **BOUNCE** checks
- I use credit card debt to pay for my basic "**NEEDS**"
- I have steadily **INCREASING** debt
- I'm **ROBBING** God

Understanding Debt – All Debts Aren't Created Equal

The idea that all debt is wrong is **NOT TRUE**

Luke 10:35 (NIV) "The next day he [the Good Samaritan] took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'"

Romans 13:8 (ESV) "Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law."

This isn't talking about **CREDIT DEBT** but about respect, paying taxes, and following the laws

Dangerous and foolish debt has two characteristics:

- It is the result of **CHOOSING** to spend more than I make
- I end up owing **MORE** on an item than it's worth

What makes this debt so dangerous is it turns us into **SLAVES**

Proverbs 22:7 (NIV) "The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is slave to the lender."

Matthew 6:24 (NIV) "[Jesus said] "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."

This isn't about money, it's about **FOLLOWING** Christ; it's a **SPIRITUAL** issue

When you allow yourself to get deep in debt, you can't serve God **FULLY**

Four Dangerous Leaks That Will Sink Your Financial Ship

1. A lack of **CONTENTMENT**

Philippians 4:11-13 (NIV) "I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 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. I can do all this through Him [Christ] who gives me strength."

Biblical commitment doesn't mean you are happy or have no drive; it means through the power of Christ you have the ability to **COPE** with whatever it is

Proverbs 21:17 (GN) "Indulging in luxuries, wine, and rich food will never make you wealthy."

2. **IMPULSE** buying

Proverbs 21:5 (GN) "Plan carefully and you will have plenty; if you act too quickly, you will never have enough."

Proverbs 14:15 (GN) "A fool will believe anything; smart people watch their step."

Luke 14:28-33 (NAS) "28For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it?"

The problem with impulse buying is we don't have the **FACTS**, but we have the **EMOTION**

Often if you wait 24 or 48 hours before buying, you will no longer **WANT** the item

Proverbs 28:20 (NIV) "...but one eager to get rich will not go unpunished."

3. **PRETENDING**

Proverbs 12:9 (NIV) "Better to be a nobody and yet have a servant than pretend to be somebody and have no food."

Proverbs 13:7 (NIV) "One person pretends to be rich, yet has nothing; another pretends to be poor, yet has great wealth."

3 Big Traps of Pretending Today:

- **GIFTS**

The best gift you can give a child is **REALITY**

- **WEDDINGS**

- **COLLEGE**

4. **CO-SIGNING**

Proverbs 6:1-5 (NIV) "...5Free yourself, like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter, like a bird from the snare of the fowler."

Proverbs 11:15 (GN) "If you promise to pay a stranger's debt, you will regret it. You are better off if you don't get involved."

Proverbs 17:18 (GN) "Only someone with no sense would promise to be responsible for someone else's debts."

Climbing Out of Debt

1. **Trust the MASTER, not MASTERCARD**

Matthew 6:31-33 (NIV) "31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (also see Phil. 4:11-13)

2. **Build small islands of GENEROSITY in your sea of debt**

Proverbs 11:25 (NIV) "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." (also see Prov. 3:9-10)

3. **Work HARDER or LONGER**

Proverbs 10:4 (GN) "Being lazy will make you poor, but hard work will make you rich."

Proverbs 14:23 (NIV) "All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty." (also see Exodus 20:8-11)

Taking an additional **PART-TIME** job temporarily can **ACCELERATE** you getting out of debt

4. **Pay off the MAXIMUM, not the MINIMUM**

Do the "debt **SNOWBALL**"

Galatians 5:1 (NIV) "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."

My Next Step Today Is:

- There are some "leaks" in my financial ship that I will begin to work toward closing
- I will begin to take the steps from Proverbs to get out of debt
- I would like to talk with someone about developing a plan to get out of debt
- I am interested in joining a small group for the next message series, beginning the week of Oct 1st

Next week: Join us as we begin a new series: "**Christian: It's Not What You Think!**" Invite a friend!

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- I don't know how much I _____
- I pay the _____ due on my credit cards
- I _____ payments or _____ checks
- I use credit card debt to pay for my basic “_____”
- I have steadily _____ debt
- I'm _____ God

Understanding Debt – All Debts Aren't Created Equal

The idea that all debt is wrong is _____

Luke 10:35 (NIV) “The next day he [the Good Samaritan] took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’”

Romans 13:8 (ESV) “Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.”

This isn't talking about _____ but about respect, paying taxes, and following the laws

Dangerous and foolish debt has two characteristics:

- It is the result of _____ to spend more than I make
- I end up owing _____ on an item than it's worth

What makes this debt so dangerous is it turns us into _____

Proverbs 22:7 (NIV) “The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is slave to the lender.”

Matthew 6:24 (NIV) “[Jesus said] “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.”

This isn't about money, it's about _____ Christ; it's a _____ issue

When you allow yourself to get deep in debt, you can't serve God _____

Four Dangerous Leaks That Will Sink Your Financial Ship

1. A lack of _____

Philippians 4:11-13 (NIV) “I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 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. I can do all this through Him [Christ] who gives me strength.”

Biblical commitment doesn't mean you are happy or have no drive; it means through the power of Christ you have the ability to _____ with whatever it is

Proverbs 21:17 (GN) “Indulging in luxuries, wine, and rich food will never make you wealthy.”

2. _____ buying

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The problem with impulse buying is we don't have the _____, but we have the _____

Often if you wait 24 or 48 hours before buying, you will no longer _____ the item

Proverbs 28:20 (NIV) "...but one eager to get rich will not go unpunished."

3. P _____

Proverbs 12:9 (NIV) "Better to be a nobody and yet have a servant than pretend to be somebody and have no food."

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3 Big Traps of Pretending Today:

- G _____

The best gift you can give a child is _____

- W _____

- C _____

4. C _____

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Climbing Out of Debt

1. Trust the _____, not _____

Matthew 6:31-33 (NIV) "31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (also see Phil. 4:11-13)

2. Build small islands of _____ in your sea of debt

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3. Work _____ or _____

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Taking an additional _____ job temporarily can _____ you getting out of debt

4. Pay off the _____, not the _____

Do the "debt _____"

Galatians 5:1 (NIV) "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."

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