

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT DEBT

Definitions:

CREDIT → SURETY → DEBT

Credit – The establishment of a _____ relationship between a lender and a borrower.

- _____ and _____ of credit can quickly lead to debt. (Proverbs 22:3)

Surety – Assuming a _____ without an _____ sure way of repayment. (Proverbs 22:26-27)

Debt¹ – Is something that is _____ to someone else.

Debt² – A condition that exists when a _____ is not _____ or inadequate collateral is pledged to unconditionally satisfy a loan agreement.

- Debt is _____ a _____ and a result of _____. (Deuteronomy 28:15, 43-44)

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT DEBT

I. The bible _____ a person from borrowing.

a. The bible _____ provide _____ concerning borrowing.

- i. A law is _____.
- ii. The overall law of borrowing is that it is a _____ to _____ and _____. (Psalm 37:21)

b. The bible _____ provide very _____ concerning borrowing.

- i. Principles – _____ from the Lord to _____.
- ii. The overall principle of borrowing is that it is _____ not to _____. (Proverbs 23:3)

II. Debt makes us _____ to the lender. (Proverbs 22:7)

a. Debt leads to _____ and _____ bondage

- i. Bondage – The state of being under the control of another person or force, influence or abstract power.

b. No one who is financially _____ can be spiritually _____. (Matthew 6:24)

c. Debt can cause us to have tunnel vision, living life consumed by our financial worries instead of putting God first in our lives.

III. God's word tells us that His plan for us is to _____.

a. God desires us to free ourselves of debt with a _____!! (Proverbs 6:5)

b. Being debt-free is considered a _____. (Deuteronomy 28:1-2, 12)

Anyone can become debt free and stay that way. It depends on the desire, discipline, and time.

Homework

Gather all of your debt:

1. What do you owe (outstanding balance)?
2. When is it due?
3. Arrange your debt from lowest to highest balance.

Growth Group Discussions

- 1) Why is debt discouraged in the bible?
- 2) What are some causes of someone getting into debt (needing to borrow)?
- 3) What would it feel like to have no debt?
- 4) What principles from the list impacted you the most?

Examples of Practical Principles:

1) Be Content – Contentment is a matter of the heart

Philippians 4:11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.

Hebrews 13:5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

2) Seek wise counsel

Proverbs 1:5 let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance

Proverbs 12:15 The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.

3) Listen to and trust God’s counsel

Proverbs 25:12 Who, then, is the man that fears the LORD? He will instruct him in the way chosen for him.

Isaiah 11:2 The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him – the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord

4) Plan and be practical

Proverbs 21:5 The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.

Haggai 1:5-6 Give careful thought to your ways. You have planted much, but have harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on your clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it.

5) If you have it, pay it

Proverbs 3:27-28 Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act. Do not say to your neighbor, “Come back later; I’ll give it tomorrow” when you have it with you.

6) Stop pretending!!!

Matthew 6:1 Be careful not to do your ‘acts of righteousness’ before me, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

7) Don’t be lazy

Proverbs 6:10-11 A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man.

8) Don’t get anxious

Philippians 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God.

9) Think about your ways and don’t listen to unwise counsel

Proverbs 14:8 The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways, but the folly of fools is deception.

Psalms 1:1 Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.

10) Know that God is the Source of all provisions and Be Thankful

Job 1:21 And he said: “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord.