



CONGREGATIONAL
STEWARDSHIP
WORKBOOK

Personal Money Management



**Congregational Stewardship
Workbook 2000**

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Personal Money Management

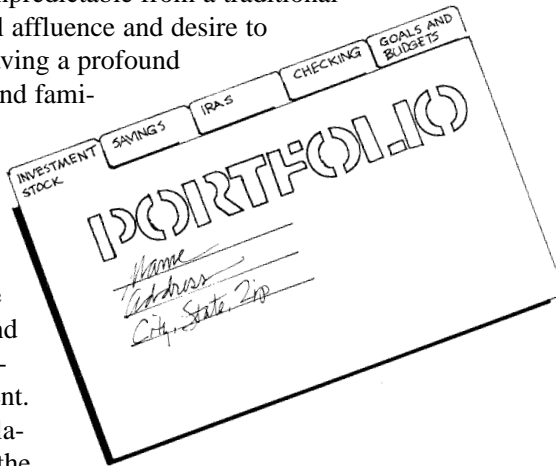
Personal Money Management Introduction

One of the root causes of poor financial stewardship response is the limiting effect of poor personal management of money. The new national and world-wide economy is unpredictable from a traditional point of view. Our general affluence and desire to possess more “stuff” is having a profound influence on individuals and families. The ability to spend instantaneously by electronic means results in insurmountable debt.

The church has a distinct responsibility to give guidance to individuals and families in the area of personal financial management. The danger to a proper relationship with God due to the love of money and the evils of excess were addressed often by Jesus. This section of this resource addresses this issue and gives some practical assistance for congregations in helping the faithful properly manage their personal finances.

Synopsis of Section

Our heavenly Father gives us money and through His Word we receive principles on how to manage it. As His stewards, we are called to be wise in handling and using money and faithful in its use. Money is an integral part of our lives. We need to spend the necessary amount of time to comprehend how it affects our material and spiritual lives.



Notes

This section begins with a brief look at how essential it is that we develop a proper attitude toward money and relationship with money. Our control on money, or it on us, affects our relationship with our Lord. To help us learn how to gain control over our money, this section offers suggestions on planning, using money principles, budgeting, controlling debt and investing.

This section is intended to help us become better managers of money as well as see the potential it has for extending God's kingdom.

Outline for Participants

I. Introduction

II. Principle: Attitude

- A. God is the provider and owner of money
- B. We are caretakers
- C. Satan uses money to deceive us

III. Principle: Planning

- A. Calculating net worth
- B. Identifying priorities and goals
- C. The importance of goal-setting
- D. Overcoming obstacles

IV. Principle: Give 10%; Save 10%; Live on 80% (10/10/80)

- A. Giving to the Lord our first and best
- B. Making saving a priority
- C. Adjusting our lifestyles to live on 80 percent

V. Principle: Control Debt

- A. Defining debt
- B. Why God discourages debt
- C. Factors leading to debt
- D. Suggestions for staying/getting out of debt

VI. Principle: Budget

- A. Benefits of a budget
- B. Planning for variable and irregular expenses

VII. Principle: Invest

- A. Factors affecting financial goals
- B. Identifying investment objectives
- C. Investment options
- D. Mutual funds

VIII. References

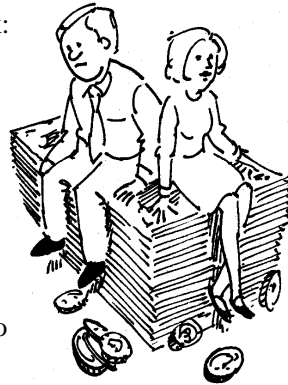
IX. Questions

X. Suggested Reading

Introduction

Christian money management begins with the conviction we want to become good managers of money entrusted to us by God because we are stewards of His gifts. When we acknowledge God as owner of our resources, we understand our obligation and responsibility to be faithful caretakers. As God's stewards we realize all things, including our money, are to be used for His purpose. Ask this question: "What is God's will for the money given me?" The Parable of the Talents (Matt. 25:14-30) says our heavenly Father is pleased when we manage our money responsibly and unhappy when we handle it poorly. Jesus said, "So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?" (Luke 16:11). Jesus calls us to handle money wisely and prudently as well as have a proper attitude and relationship toward money.

We live in a money-driven, consumer-oriented society. Life revolves around money. Sooner or later most of us get into some kind of quandary over money issues. We ask: “How did I get into this position?” and “How do I get out?” Handling money properly is challenging and difficult, but it is possible. This section provides and equips you with some basic money principles. When you become knowledgeable about money you can become more prudent and wise in its use. Like athletes who train for their athletic events and musicians who practice and rehearse for their concerts, we need to prepare adequately for our financial journeys. To succeed and do well at handling money can be time consuming and hard work. Are you willing to devote the time and energy to become a faithful steward who is a responsible manager of money?



Principle: Attitude

The primary issue with money is attitude. While it is important to have a good budget, to be wise investors and to control credit, what matters most is our attitudes toward money and our relationships with money. Do we possess possessions or do possessions possess us? Acknowledging God as the owner of our money and we are only caretakers of what He entrusts to us is a first step toward ensuring our possessions are tools for our use rather than things that control us.

As Christians, we are not honest if we use the disclaimer, “Jesus can have our hearts but not our money.” You can’t compartmentalize the Christian life. Our relationship with Christ impacts everything we think and do, including our money management.

Money, more than anything else, can separate us from our heavenly Father. Money can be Satan's best tool to deceive God's people. Money may win the battle for our hearts as we are deceived by the thoughts that money is the answer to our needs instead of God. Having money and possessions can make us proud, crowd out the real God and replace Him as our God and our security. In the Parable of the Sower, Jesus said: "...the

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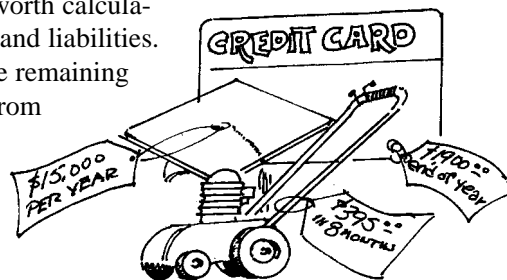
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deceitfulness of wealth chokes [the Word] making it unfruitful” (Matt. 6:22). God’s word tells us to choose between God and money. “No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money” (Matt. 6:24). As God’s people we can’t have a foot in each kingdom. Choose between God’s kingdom and the kingdom of the world. It is one or the other, not both.

By itself money has no value. It is only worth the value someone gives it. For some, money represents power and security. Many view the amount of their investments and the number of their possessions as the determining factor of their value and worth. Money is looked upon as an end rather than a means. To the world, money is life’s report card and source of all happiness. Others see money as a problem and source of their misery. God’s stewards know His gifts are for our good. “Every good and perfect gift is from above coming down from the Father...” (James 1:17). As faithful stewards we see money as a means to provide for our needs and as a tool we use to further God’s kingdom.

Principle: Planning

An important part of formulating plans and goals is to determine our current financial condition. A way to take inventory of our financial status is through a net worth statement (see Net Worth Worksheet at end of this section). When we make a net worth calculation, it clearly shows our assets and liabilities. Our net worth is the dollar value remaining when liabilities are subtracted from total assets. Of course we want a positive balance because a negative net worth reflects pending financial crisis.



As the old saying goes, “People don’t plan to fail, they fail to plan.” Unfortunately, many people don’t face up to their future needs and goals. Education for the kids? A new house? Retirement? Travel? An emergency? A goal is a measurable statement toward which we believe God wants to move us. A goal is a motivator to help keep us from being side-tracked. Goals are attainable and include deadlines (dates). It is important to take responsibility and set goals in writing in order to help us stay focused. We need more than an attitude of “Wouldn’t it be nice if ...” or “I’d love to have...”

With realistic financial goals we can measure progress. The following examples of goals show cost and time frame.

1. Provide one child with four years of college education at a cost today of \$15,000 per year beginning in the year 2004.
2. Buy a new lawn mower in eight months at a cost of \$395.
3. Pay off credit-card debt of \$1,900 by the end of the year.

A chart like this may help identify and achieve our goals:

Goal	Total Cost	Target Date	# of Months	Monthly Saving Needed
Piano				
New Car				
College				

Realistic goals:

- Establish a framework for financial stability.
- Help us use our incomes to their best advantage.
- Help us accept the reality of our particular situation.
- Make us initiators rather than responders.
- Increase the probability of reaching our goals.

In setting goals we start by asking, “What is God’s plan for me?”; and “What is important to me?” “‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future’” (Jer. 29:11).

Failure to plan costs. Without careful planning we pay higher taxes or don't have money for education or retirement. Failure to plan leaves us unprotected from automobile, home or work-related accidents. Most important, a lack of planning represents the possibility of our inability to reach our God-given goals and potential.

We don't set goals because we don't:

- Know what we want.
- Believe goal-setting works.
- Know how to set goals.
- Want to be held accountable.
- Possess enough money.

The following chart shows how much income is earned by working 40 years.

<u>Income per year</u>	<u>40 years of income</u>
\$25,000	\$1,000,000
\$30,000	\$1,200,000
\$40,000	\$1,600,000
\$50,000	\$2,000,000
\$60,000	\$2,400,000
\$70,000	\$2,800,000
\$80,000	\$3,200,000
\$90,000	\$3,600,000
\$100,000	\$4,000,000

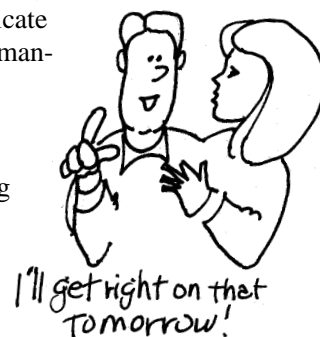
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How well will we account for all this money? Will what we have done with our money indicate we have planned and managed it well or mismanaged it?

One of the biggest obstacles to planning and setting goals is procrastination. Begin today. Best intentions get nowhere. By setting goals we avoid waking up one day to find we have to borrow to meet goals like education or equity for a home. Of course, goals keep changing and need to be checked every year.



Principle: Give 10 percent ; Save 10 percent ; Live on 80 percent (10/10/80)

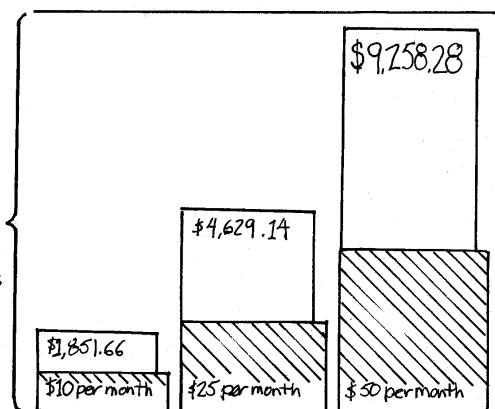
This old principle served people well for years. There is nothing radical or complicated about the principle of giving God the first 10 percent, saving the next 10 percent, and adjusting our lifestyles so we can live on the remaining 80 percent. How much we give, save and spend speaks volumes about us as people.

Give 10 Percent

The 10/10/80 principle applies Biblical principles of giving. When we give our first 10 percent to God, we give the Lord our firstfruits and give proportionately. Prov. 3:9 reads, "Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops." God directs us to give Him the firstfruits from all we receive. As faithful stewards, we willingly respond to Him with our gifts out of love and commitment because we know He first loved and gave to us. We acknowledge God to be the creator and provider of all things.

Consequently, we are simply returning to Him what He already has given to us. As the Apostle Paul says: "What do you have that you did not receive?" (1 Cor. 4:7).

Savings
per
month
for
10 years



Save 10 Percent

When we save 10 percent we demonstrate discipline and an orientation for the future. Unfortunately, as a country, we have become less and less interested in saving. When we save faithfully we maintain better control of our financial future and avoid much of the stress and anxiety experienced by those who continually spend their entire paychecks. Saving increases the probability of reaching our financial goals and it makes economic sense to earn money through interest on our savings rather than pay it out on

credit-card interest charges. To accumulate a sizeable savings we can either work for it or let it work for us. Ideally, our goal is to have it both ways. Another important reason to have money in savings is we are better prepared to meet emergencies.

Scripture provides insight into the value of saving:

“In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil, but a foolish man devours all he has” (Prov. 21:20).

“Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest” (Prov. 6:6-8).

Follow these four basic saving principles:

1. Save More

Some of us have “piggy banks” into which we deposit our loose change each evening. As far as a saving plan goes, that’s a good start. However, if we’re saving for more than a pizza at the end of the month, we must commit to saving more. A better step is to set aside a predetermined amount each week. The key in saving is to establish well-defined goals that motivate us to increase our savings. Make yourself accountable to your goals. Discipline and consistency along with short-term sacrifices yield dividends in the future.

Consistent saving makes a lot of money over the long haul. Assume an 8 percent return on our investment savings. If we...

save \$10 a month for 10 years, we have \$1,851.66.

save \$25 a month for 10 years, we have \$4,629.14.

save \$50 a month for 10 years, we have \$9,258.28.

2. Save Systematically

There is little probability of saving if we save just the leftovers. To save money, we must demonstrate it is a priority. Treat savings as an expense. One of the better methods of saving is to withdraw money systematically from our paychecks or checking accounts to deposit into an investment vehicle.

3. Save Tax-Advantaged

When possible, save money in ways that avoid or defer taxes. The most common method is through 401(k) plans offered by profit-oriented businesses; or, by 403(b) plans offered by non-profit entities. Both plans allow employees the advantage of investing pre-tax money to avoid current taxation, and defer taxes on the investment gains until the money is withdrawn. Savings will grow much faster in value without subtraction of taxes.

Another popular method of saving tax-advantaged is the Individual Retirement Account (IRA). You can put a maximum of \$2,000 per year in an IRA and defer taxes on any gains until it is withdrawn or until reaching the age of 70-1/2 when partial distributions are mandatory. Unless we have large incomes we can use our IRA contributions as tax deductions.

With IRAs we need to decide between a traditional IRA and a Roth IRA. With a Roth IRA you pay tax immediately and the money grows

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tax-free. With a traditional IRA the taxes are deferred until the investor withdraws money. The recommended choice will be determined by factors such as amount of earned income and age.

4. Save Smart

Saving smart implies increasing the returns on savings without unnecessary risk. After accumulating an emergency fund (a minimum of three to six months of income invested in a liquid fund), start investing savings. Saving too conservatively is a common mistake.

Wise investors diversify their investments. Bank CDs or Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) investments should be part of a savings plan; but, use another portion to seek more growth in investment vehicles. Since 1926, the stock market has provided investors with an approximate 11 percent annualized return. Past performance is no guarantee of future performance, but it may be smart to put some savings into growth mutual funds or individual stocks.

The following indicates how savings can grow significantly:

Invest \$10,000 for 20 years at the following interest rates:

Interest Rate	20 Years
5%	\$ 17,126
10%	\$ 63,281
15%	\$187,155

Interestingly, the investment above more than doubled when the interest rate changed from 5 percent to 10 percent and more than tripled when it increased from 5 percent to 15 percent. If we save and invest wisely we can realize a sizeable growth in our savings.

Spend 80 percent on our lifestyles

Does God want us to live in substandard housing or in mansions? God doesn't give us specifics about the cars we drive, the houses we live in, or the clothes we wear. He does give us principles. "Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God who provides us with everything for our enjoyment" (1 Tim. 6:17). God provides more than we need for food, shelter. He does this for our enjoyment! Living comfortably is not a sin. Living comfortably with an arrogant attitude, however, is displeasing to God. Putting our hope in something other than God is futile. God commands us to put Him first. "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matt. 6:33). Trusting this promise we honor the Lord with our lives and live as faithful stewards.

To live on 80 percent of our income, we need to control spending. Impulsive spending must stop. If we consider the purchase of



an item not part of our spending plan we should say “no.” We need to examine how much we spend on hobbies. Are we spending money to combat loneliness or boredom? Are we caught up in the need to spend to keep up with the Joneses? Be careful not to become victims of the foolish desires money can create.

Improper spending habits are among the biggest hindrances to accumulating any sizeable nest-egg. Other obstacles impede our ability to live on 80 percent of our income and save any large amount of money: procrastination, inflation and taxes.

Procrastination: Putting off until tomorrow what needs to begin today. This includes planning, setting goals and saving.

Inflation: With inflation, expect to pay more for things if we desire to maintain our current lifestyles. If we are on fixed or limited incomes we won’t be able to save or purchase as much because of inflation.

Taxes: It takes five months or more of income each year to pay all our taxes. Becoming more knowledgeable about ways to reduce taxes enables us to retain more money to give, save and spend.

Principle: Control Debt

Financially speaking there are three types of people: those who have, those who have not, and those who have not paid for what they have. Unfortunately, debt has become a way of life. We borrow and take on debt so frequently it is possibly the most violated money principle in God’s Word. Scripture does not forbid debt but it does discourage it. Excessive debt devastates a family’s financial future, creates tension and chaos in the family, breaks up marriages and causes health problems.

Debt is defined in three ways:

- When we can’t pay off our bills or credit cards each month.
- When we have a negative net worth.
- When we can’t afford to pay for basic needs.

Why does Scripture discourage debt?

- Debt enslaves a person to a creditor. “The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender” (Prov. 22:7). Each time we take on debt or increase debt, we give up some freedom to a creditor.
- Debt obligates a person to earning pressures. Because of debt we have a greater need to earn money. When we are deep in debt, disruption to earnings can be life-changing and, possibly, life-threatening. Debt forces us to work multiple jobs or excessively long hours. Some debt is due to circumstances beyond our control: accidents, illnesses, job losses, etc. However, debt can be avoided if we say “no” to some of our wants and desires.
- Debt undermines joy. When in debt, we experience added tension and anxiety. Debt prevents enjoyment of pleasurable activities.

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- Debt erodes giving opportunities. Because of God's love we have the ability and desire to help others. Our need to pay off debt prevents our financial ability to give to others.
- Debt imperils Christian witness. Our witness is impeded for two reasons:
 - 1) We are less effective in evangelism when we daily face tension and anxiety over debt; and,
 - 2) Our witness to others suffers when others see or hear about our financial difficulties.
- Debt unmasks our flaws. With debt, we show lack of contentment, patience, trust and self-discipline.¹

To help control debt we need to differentiate between needs, wants and desires:

- Needs: Clothes, food and shelter comprise basic needs. The Apostle Paul says, "But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that" (1 Tim. 6:8). He also says, "And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:19).
- Wants: A want is a quality of need. For example, I may own a Ford Taurus but I want a BMW. I may live in an apartment but want to live in a house.
- Desires: A desire is explained as an extensive wish list. Prov. 21:17 warns: "He who loves pleasure will become poor; whoever loves wine and oil will never be rich."

If we curb our wants and desires we become more successful in staying out of debt. "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'" (Heb. 13:5). Focusing on God's promises to be with and strengthen us, we find contentment in Him.

Several factors lead to debt:

- Failure to set goals; poor planning
- Lack of information and/or ignorance
- Too many commitments or fixed expenses
- Impulse buying
- Failure to say "no"—to self—to children
- Failure to stay organized or keep records
- Availability of easy credit
- Lack of resistance to sales
- Indulgences

We may be pleasantly surprised to find how much money in interest charges we save if we make more than minimum payments on our credit cards. An example: You have \$2,200 in credit card debt at 18 percent interest. You are required to make the credit-card minimum payment of 3 percent or \$66. This totals \$872 in interest. Choosing to pay an extra amount, result in the following savings:

Monthly Pmt	It will cost you	You save
\$66	\$872 Interest	\$0
\$66 + 10 extra	\$707 Interest	\$165
\$66 + 25 extra	\$553 Interest	\$319
\$66 + 50 extra	\$408 Interest	\$464
\$66 + 75 extra	\$325 Interest	\$547
\$66 + 100 extra	\$271 Interest ²	\$602

Before we take on debt or add to our existing debt, ask some basic questions. Be slow, deliberate and cautious before borrowing.

- Have I prayed about borrowing?
- When I borrow am I getting enough value to make it worth the added obligation?
- Will the asset purchased appreciate in value?
- Will borrowing allow me to give, save and maintain my lifestyle?
- Does borrowing fit my budget?
- Will borrowing cause any tension or anxiety in my family?

Consider these suggestions for controlling credit-card debt:

- Reduce the number of credit cards we own.
- Leave credit card(s) at home unless there is a predetermined need for it.
- Eliminate credit cards if we don't pay the credit cards off in full during the 30-day grace period.

Credit cards should contain the clause: "This credit card can be hazardous to your interest/financial well-being."³

Principle: Budget

To be good stewards of money, develop plans that help you give generously, save diligently and spend wisely. Budgets match incomes with expenses. View your budget as a road map to help you see where you are going and to tell you how to get there. Budgeting requires action, discipline and commitment.



Budgeting has several benefits. It:

- enables us to become proactive rather than reactive.
- helps us develop priorities and reach financial goals.
- helps us reduce or eliminate impulse spending.
- increases our ability to stay out of debt.
- enables us to exert control over money.
- reduces some anxiety and tension in handling money.

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Budgets have two sides:

- What we earn.
- What we spend.

Budgets cover two kinds of expenses:

- Fixed expenses:
constant items such as mortgage or rent payments, car payments, insurance premiums, utilities, etc.
- Variable expenses:
payments made regularly, varying in amount depending on degree of use or need such as food, clothing, household maintenance, dry cleaning, magazine subscriptions, gifts, etc.

It is important to plan ahead and set money aside for other than monthly expenses. For example, we don't have monthly bills for insurance premiums or real-estate taxes, yet, we need to set aside money each month to pay those bills. Cars and appliances inevitably need repair. Without financial reserves, we find ourselves in stressful circumstances. Set money aside every month and experience fewer surprises and problems. Office supply stores sell budget books helpful in setting up budgets.

Principle: Invest


In Grandpa's day, the family savings often were tucked under a mattress or in the sugar bowl. This offered no risk except for thievery or loss of purchase power. Today's investment environment is more complex. The old economic rules no longer apply. The economy and markets have become global. All this impacts how we invest today.

Investing begins by determining financial goals. The following are some factors that will influence these goals:

- Investment time frame: How long do we have before the money is needed?
- Priorities: Do we need income or growth?
- Investment funding potential: Will there be an ongoing stream of income to invest?
- Return on investments: What do we expect from investments?
- Age and career stage: Are we young or old? Do we have potential for additional income?
- Income needs: Does the investment provide all or part of the income needed?
- Risk tolerance: How much risk are we willing to take?

Once we have established our goals we can identify investment objectives such as:

- Safety and preservation of investment dollars: Many investors are conservative and don't want loss of principle.

- **Hedge against inflation:** Because of inflation, money's purchasing power is diminished. To hedge against inflation means the return on our investments equals or exceeds the rate of inflation.
 - **Tax-free income:** Investors in a high tax bracket are interested in investments that legally avoid federal and state income tax.
 - **Current income:** Many investors need income distributed currently from the investment.
 - **Appreciation/growth:** Investments that increase in value show appreciation and growth.
 - **Liquidity of the investment:** Investors often need investments available immediately without fluctuation in value.
 - **Ease of management:** If there is a lack of interest or time, investors seek investments that do not require a lot of attention.
 - **Ability to add or withdraw:** Investors seek investments that allow ease in investing or withdrawing funds.
 - **Diversification:** Through diversification we reduce investment risk. The proverb is true: Don't put all your eggs in one basket.
- 



Degree of risk is a major component in choosing investment alternatives. Identify the degree of risk in the following manner:

- No Risk: CDs (FDIC Insured), U.S. Government bonds.
- Low Risk: Highly rated municipal and corporate bonds, blue chip utility stocks and money market funds.
- High Risk: Commodity futures, precious metals, collectibles and some high tech stocks.

Mutual Funds

A mutual fund is an investment company owned by shareholders. A mutual fund company makes investments on behalf of individual investors. In a mutual fund our money is pooled with other investors. Mutual funds are popular and make investment sense for the following reasons:

- Professionally managed: Professional managers manage mutual fund assets.
- Diversification: Mutual fund investments are pooled with other investors. Mutual-fund managers can invest in hundreds of different companies, providing diversified portfolios. This diversification reduces the risk because the investment is spread out over many different equities.
- Reinvestment: We can contribute additional money to mutual funds every month and reinvest the income and capital gains. Reinvestment allows for growth by accumulation of additional shares of the fund.
- Withdrawals: Mutual funds investors can receive a check each month.

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- Choice of investment objectives: Mutual funds offer a variety of investment choices that let you match needs and goals with objectives of the fund. Fund objectives include income, tax-free income, conservative growth, aggressive growth, international investing, etc.
- Liquid: Mutual funds can be sold quickly and usually without redemption charge.
- Easy to buy: Funds are sold either by a broker or directly to the public through advertising.⁴

References

¹Bill Hybels, *Achieving Financial Freedom*, an Injoy stewardship resource, audiocassettes, Atlanta, Ga., 1997.

²USA Weekend. Dec. 25-27, 1998.

³Ronald J. Chewning, *Becoming Money Wise*, (St. Louis, Mo., Concordia Publishing House, 1998.)

⁴Chewning, *Ibid.*, 100-101.

Questions for discussions:

Relating to Attitude:

1. How do you know when money is controlling you?
2. How can money separate you from fellowship with God?
3. What are ways you can be a faithful steward with money?
4. What improper attitude does 1 Tim. 6:9-10 discuss?
5. What happens to those who put their wealth ahead of God (Prov. 11:28; 28:20)?
6. In the Parable of the Talents why is the master pleased with the wise management of money (Matt. 25:14-30)?
7. What should you pray for according to Prov. 30:7-9?

Relating to Planning:

1. What does a net worth statement show? What are its elements?
2. Why are goals helpful?
3. What does a workable goal contain?
4. Why don't people set goals?
5. How can you keep your goals more visible so you can stay on the right track?
6. In the Parable of the Rich Fool (Luke 12:13-21), what was the farmer's mistake?
7. What does Scripture say about counseling (Prov. 15:22; 19:20)?

8. What does Scripture say about planning (Prov. 14:15; 16:3; 21:29; 27:12)?

Relating to the 10/10/80 Principle:

1. What are the main points of this principle?
2. What Scripture verses direct you to give to God first?
3. Why is saving important? How can you save more? What are principles of saving?
4. How important are effort and discipline in financial activities (Prov. 14:23; 21:5)?
5. Remember this: "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously" (2 Cor. 9:6). How does this apply to managing money?
6. What determines your lifestyle? What lifestyle pleases God?

Relating to Budgeting:

1. What is a budget? Why is it a good idea?
2. What are the differences between fixed and variable expenses? Identify some of each.
3. How can poverty or affluence affect budget planning?

Relating to Controlling Debt:

1. Define debt.
2. Why does Scripture discourage debt?
3. Who does not repay debt (Ps. 37:21)?
4. How does a consumer-oriented society contribute to debt? Why do companies offer such easy credit?
5. What are the outcomes of having large amounts of debt?

Relating to Investing:

1. What are factors that influence our financial goals?
2. What does it mean to hedge against inflation?
3. Why would a person want or need liquidity in an investment?
4. What are some investment options?
5. What warnings are given about get-rich schemes (Prov. 10:2; 12:11; 13:11; Ps. 37:7)?
6. How important is it for you to seek knowledge and wisdom in your investing (Prov. 15:14; 16:16; 23:23; 24:3-4)?
7. What do we read regarding the wise in Prov. 21:20?

Notes

Notes

Suggested Reading

Ronald J. Chewning, CFP, *Becoming Money Wise*, (St. Louis, Mo.: Concordia Publishing House, 1998.)

Ethan Pope, *How to be a Smart Money Manager*, (Nashville, Tenn.: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1995.)

Barbara O'Neill, CFP, *Saving on a Shoestring*, (Dearborn Financial Publishing Inc., 1995.)

Ric Edelman, *The Truth about Money*, (New York, N.Y.: Harper Collins Publishers, 1998.)

Ray Martin, *Your Financial Guide*, (New York, N.Y.: A Simon and Schuster Macmillian Co., 1996.)

Elizabeth S. Lewin, CFP, *Your Personal Financial Fitness Program*, (New York, N.Y.: Facts on File Inc., 1996.)

Net Worth Statement

Date: _____

What I Own:

Liquid Assets

Checking Account _____
Bank Savings _____
Money Market Funds _____
Cash Value Life Insurance _____
Other _____

Investment Assets

Mutual Funds _____
LCEF Funds _____
Bank CDs _____
Real Estate Investments _____
IRAs _____
401(k) or 403(b) _____
Other _____

Personal Assets

Residence _____
Household Furnishings _____
Vehicles _____
Hobbies _____
Total Assets _____

What I Owe:

Credit Card Debt _____
Installment Loans _____
Personal Loans _____
Home Mortgage _____
Other _____

Total Assets: _____

Total Liabilities: (-) _____

Net Worth: _____

Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.