

Sunday, June 16, 2013 – FATHER’S DAY

Freedom from Debt

Selected Scripture

As your pastor, I have many desires for us as a church family. On the top of that list is our becoming debt free over the next ten years. It is for that reason, as we launch the next ministry year of 2014, my focal point will be on a ten year plan to lead us out of debt. Rest assured God wants his church and His people to live beyond illegitimate debt.

Quick facts:

- The leading cause of American debt today is the lack of honoring God, and the inability to delay gratification or impulse buying.
- Credit card debt is the third largest source of household indebtedness. It is third only to mortgage and student loans.
- The average student graduates college with over \$35,200 in college – related debt.

Instead of young couples living for the future, we are seeing them pay for the past. Whatever debt rules, it also ruins. That’s why so many marriages today are failing ... because debt is ruining those marriages.

Dave Ramsey
“The average American household has over \$15,000 in credit card debt.”

Definition of Illegitimate Debt:

Illegitimate debt occurs when you are not able to pay your bills on time, or when your assets are lower than your liabilities.

Christian stewardship goes beyond paying God a tithe of our income and then using the remainder as we please. True stewardship means that we thank God for *all* that we have and use it as He directs. Giving God 10 percent of our income is a good way to *begin* our walk with God, but we must remember that God should control what we do with the remaining 90 percent as well.

Illegitimate Debt Is Largely Due To A Number Of Things:

1. Lack of knowledge
2. Rebellion
3. Greed
4. Poor planning

Three words that must be obeyed in order to get out of debt:

1. Give

- The average Christian gives 2.5% of their income back to God.
- 85% of all Christians never tithe.
- 45% of Christians give absolutely nothing to the church!
- God will never deliver you from debt until you stop stealing from Him. God will never bless us until we stop ripping Him off.
- Tithing isn’t just about money; it’s about the recognition of who God is.

2. Save

- 34% of all Americans have no savings whatsoever.
- Tithing and saving should be the first two things a Christian does when he gets paid, regardless if the savings is as little as a dollar.

Warren Buffet:
"I live by the 10-10-80 rule. Tithing the first 10%, save the second 10%, and live off the last 80%."

3. Spend

- Three areas of spending we all must learn to control:
 - A. Needs
 - B. Wants
 - C. Desires
- How do I get out of debt?
 1. Become a tither, and put yourself into position to become a generous giver.
 2. Save something out of every paycheck...even if it's only a little.
 3. Always keep record of where your money is going.
 4. Always plan for a debt free life.
 5. In extreme cases, sell your desires, adjust your wants, meet the needs, and watch God relinquish your debt.
 6. Always commit your plans to God.