

Sermon Notes

The Business of Being a Christian

“Getting Your Financial House in Order
While Graciously Conducting Business with Others”

I. Reintroduction of the thesis statement

A. The perception of being known as Evangelical or worldly has become so closely aligned that life-style choices are nearly identical.

1. Recent data from the book “UnChristian”
 - a. Worldliness
 - b. Generational gaps are widening.

B. Today’s focus – The Christian and Finances

1. Red ink is everywhere
 - a. U.S. deficit spending
 - b. Mortgage crisis
 - c. Pastor Don’s assessment – Washington will not solve the problem.
2. What you can do now.

II. The Bible on integrity and finances.

A. God’s word on debt.

1. Deut. 15:6; Romans 13:8
2. Remember the difference between appreciating and depreciating assets.
 - a. Charge cards – only with discipline
 - b. Second mortgages – watch out.
 - c. Borrowing – permissible, but watch out for surety debt.
3. Not paying your debts.
 - a. Psalm 37:21
 - b. It is now in vogue to not pay debts.
 1. Mortgage foreclosure
 2. Bankruptcy
 - a. Both are only moral in cases of calamity, but too often they have become ways of avoiding

responsibility.

4. What is legal may not be moral.

- a. Examples
- b. Routinely making late payments
- c. Integrity and truth are involved.

1. Decalogue – Transgressions of the 8th and 9th commandments.

B. Dos and Don’ts

1. Desire the fruit of the Spirit within the context of your business affairs.
2. If you are in debt, routinely communicate with the lender.
3. When in debt, pay even the smallest of amounts.
4. If you are in debt, get out. If you are out, stay out.
5. Pay bills on time.
 - a. Credit reports are often an open door to your integrity.
 1. I Timothy 3:2a.
 - b. Pastor Don’s example.
6. Learning to be content.
 - a. I Timothy 6:6
 - b. Jerry Bridges
 - c. Beware of covetousness – Exodus 20:13-17.
7. Keep balanced.
 - a. Luke 12:15, I Tim. 6:6-11; Heb. 13:5

III. The World is always Watching

- A. Is your life principally about the sum total of what you have, what you do with it, and how to have more of it while paying as little as possible?
- B. The world is expeditiously watching how and when you pay your bills, how much and why you finance, and what your life is really all about.
- C. Contentment is about sufficiency in God and controlling fleshly desires.
- D. If you need help, seek out the leadership, but also remember to submit to their directives.