

Small Group/Sermon Notes for Instead Part 5: Your Relationship with Money

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- Make sure everyone knows each other's names. Have everyone share a little about themselves and how life is going right now.
- **Instead: Set Up**
- This is a series about replacing the old with the new!
 - It's basically **Romans 12:2** applied in a variety of circumstances.
- **This week: Your Relationship with Money**
- What is your relationship with money?
 - Is your identity wrapped up in "what you are worth?"
 - Is your view of other people influenced by what they have or what "class" they are?
 - Are money and God competing for your affections?
- Our Scripture: **Proverbs 8:10-11**
 - This is talking about what you choose to go after. Instead of money, go after wisdom and the instruction of God.
 - This choice isn't an either/or type of choice. For ex: **Prov 8:12, Prov 8:18.**
 - So choosing wisdom and God's ways don't require poverty.
 - Another example: Solomon. **1 Kings 3:5-14.**
- Today, we try to replace unhealthy relationships with money with a Godly one.
 - Two things of note:
 - Money makes a great servant but an evil master.
 - Danger: Giving up things more valuable than money for money.
 - Integrity, family, morals, relationship with God, etc.
- Two Ditches: The Poverty Gospel and the Prosperity Gospel.
 - I believe in sacrifice and I believe in provision and great blessing. We want to find wisdom rather than have the pattern of this world skew our vision.
 - The Poverty Gospel: **Prov 8:10-11, 1 Timothy 6:4-10, Mark 10:21-23, etc.**
 - What will focusing on these types of Scriptures result in?
 - The Poverty Mentality feels guilty when things go well for them and angry/jealous when things go well for others. Yuck!
 - The Prosperity Gospel: **Prov 8:18, 2 Cor 9:6-11, Mark 10:29-30, etc.**
 - What will focusing on these types of Scriptures result in?
- How do we choose wisdom and God's instructions?
 - First, submit your life to God. Come under His Lordship.
 - When we do this our lives get better. Do you believe that?
 - Submit your financial life to God just like you do with the other parts of your life.
 - This can be the last stronghold in some people's hearts. Release and be free.
 - Trust God that your financial life will get better.
 - This will likely involve the upfront pain of discipline. But that is way better than the paid of regret!
 - Commands to the rich: **1 Timothy 6:17-19**
 - The command is not for the rich to become poor. Being rich is fine!
 - (v17) God provides material things for our enjoyment. Give thanks!
- Two final Scriptures:
 - **1 Timothy 6:6**
 - Godliness with contentment. Not feeling discontent because of money or the lack thereof.
 - **Matt 6:33**
 - Instead of God as an afterthought, seek God first. Then our mind set will be right!
- Pray for each other before you finish up!