

1 Timothy 6:3-19

The Love of Money Part 1: A root of evils

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### The Love of Money

- What is the love of money? v9 the “desire to be rich...” – *greed*
- Two qualifiers a. money itself is not the root – though it is inherently seductive b. love of money is not the singular root of evils, but is a key one
- The love of money is a problem for all categories of people, not just those who actually have it

### A Root of All Kinds of Evils

- Roots are below the surface – the love of money is a problem we may not know we have
- The love of money will manifest itself in “all kinds” of ways - envy, dissension, slander (v4), etc.
- We love money because of what it gets us – power, prestige, comfort, security – our love and devotion is a form of false worship (idolatry)
- If we let the root remain, our lives will continue to be filled with bad fruit

### The Love of God, the Root of All That Is Good

- vv13-16 – God alone is worthy of our love and devotion
- contrasts: a. envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions and constant friction (v4) vs. righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness and gentleness (v11) b. desiring to be rich (v9) vs. taking hold of eternal life (v12) c. hope in riches vs. hope in God (v17)
- the goal: to take hold of that which is truly life (v19)
- Matthew 22:15-22 – “render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s”
- Question for reflection: What belongs to you, and to whom do you belong?

### Questions for reflection

1. What are your working and spending habits? How much do you work, and how much does salary determine your employment/career choices? Do you spend money without thinking much about it, or plan very carefully? What role does money play in the key decisions of your life?
2. James 4:1-2 says fights and quarrels come because we “desire and do not have”, and “covet and cannot obtain.” What are the things you desire most in life, and what

happens when you don't get them? In what ways do you assume money can get you some of the things you most fundamentally want? What problems in your heart – anger, envy, regret, anxiety, etc. – can be traced back to a love of money?

3. To whom do you belong? Do you belong to God? In what ways do the things you own exert control over your life?
4. Is “eternal life” of any real value to you? Do you seek eternal life (even if that means seeking to understand what it is) more than you strive after other things?
5. Jesus gave his life to grant eternal life to those who believe in him. What does that say about the value of eternal life? What does it say about how God values those who hope in him?