



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

THE DANGERS OF BORROWING

Borrowing Series – Part 2

Sis. Techie “Soar” M. Rodriguez, Elder-Founder, TLF
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Borrowing money is something that most of us have done at one time or another. However, when we borrow more money than we can realistically repay, there is a big risk that we can fall heavily into debts and find ourselves in financial bondage. Proverbs 22: 7 warns us never to take a loan without carefully examining our ability to repay it. The borrower must realize that until the loan is paid, the borrower is servant to the lender. Borrowing is discouraged by the Scripture (Rom. 13:8). The Lord does not want us to be in financial bondage; He has already freed us from being slaves to sin (Prov22:7). We only need to obey Him, and we will not be borrowers; rather, we shall be givers or lenders to many (Dt 28:12).

DANGERS OF BORROWING:

1. Borrowing interferes with God's supernatural provision. God wants to demonstrate His supernatural power as He provides for our needs. We need to trust Him (2 Chron16:9).
2. Borrowing enslaves. Financial debt is a form of slavery (Prov. 22: 7).
3. Borrowing diffuses protection from harmful items. There are many things we think would be beneficial to our lives, but only God knows if they would be harmful to us or not. In His loving mercy, He may limit our funds so that we cannot afford to purchase things that would be harmful or destructive.
4. Borrowing hinders service. God intends for Christians to avoid earthly entanglements in order to serve Him freely, without reservation and without distraction.
5. Borrowing promotes impulse buying. Buying without careful planning and based only on the desires of the moment can lead to financial ruin.
6. Borrowing facilitates indulgence. We need only a few basic things to survive: food, clothing, and shelter. However, borrowing enables the

excessive and unrestrained gratification of one's own appetites, desires and whims, which can spiral into debts.

SYMPTOMS OF FINANCIAL BONDAGE:

1. Overdue bills stemming from overspending
2. Investment worries
3. “Get rich quick” attitude
4. No gainful employment
5. Deceit – being dishonest in financial matters
6. Greed – always wanting the best
7. Coveting – wanting what others have
8. Unmet family needs – Unless this is a by-product of circumstances due to sickness, injury or other unforeseen events, this is irresponsibility.
9. Lack of charity – refusal to help others due to selfish short-sightedness
10. Over commitment to work
11. Money entanglements – mishandling of finances
12. Financial unfairness – taking advantage of others
13. Financial superiority
14. Financial resentment- the mindset that God has not given what one deserves

PRINCIPLES OF SPENDING:

1. Focus on giving to God first our first fruits. (Malachi 3: 10)
2. Focus on basic needs – food, shelter and clothing.
3. Focus on savings and investment.
4. Focus on giving to others.
5. Develop a spending strategy.

CONCLUSION: Careless and unmindful spending can lead to financial debts. Therefore, before spending, we need to ask ourselves: (a) Why do I want this? (b) Will this fill a legitimate need or fill a spiritual void? (c) Do I have the resources to pay? (d) Has the Lord provided for this item? (e) Am I willing to wait? (f) How will this bring growth to the Kingdom of God.
REFLECTION: Have you fallen into a debt trap due to borrowing? What steps did you take to get out of this trap?

Transcriber/Writer: Sis. Te Florentino

Editor: Sis Jo Advincula

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