

## **Why I Hate the Church 04: It's all about the Money**

### **Doug Napier**

#### **1) I Will Recognize God is Owner**

There are 2,350 Verses about money and possessions in the Bible

##### **PS 24:1 (NIV)**

*The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.*

God owns it all.

##### **Is 55:8-9 (NIV)**

*"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. 9 "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

#### **2) I Will Not Make Money an Idol**

Money is the primary competitor with Christ for first place in our lives.

What is an idol?

Any person, object, or activity you give a higher priority in your life than a relationship with God

##### **Matt 6:24 (NIV)**

*No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.*

##### **1 Tim 6:10 (NIV)**

*For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.*

### 3) I Will Be A Good Steward

A Steward is a manager of someone else's possessions.

#### 1 Cor 4:2 (ESV)

*Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.*

#### Matt 25:21 (NIV)

*"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'*

#### Luke 16:12

*And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?*

### Poverty vs. Stewardship vs. Prosperity

This passage offers two requirements for prosperity. When you do this, you place yourself in the position to be prospered financially. They command. When you do this, you place yourself in the position to be prospered financially. There is no guarantee, however, that God will choose financial prosperity for you. He knows what is best for you and requires that you trust Him for whatever He chooses.

Please review this diagram, which contrasts the three perspectives.

	Poverty	Steward	Prosperity
Possessions are:	Evil	A responsibility	A right
I work to:	Meet only basic needs	Serve Christ	Become rich
Godly people are:	Poor	Faithful	Wealthy
Ungodly people are:	Wealthy	Unfaithful	Poor
I give:	Because I must	Because I love God	To get
My spending is:	Fearful and joyless	Prayerful and responsible	Carefree and consumptive

Discussion Questions

#### **4) I Will Point My Heart Towards God**

How you handle money affects the intimacy with a relationship with Jesus.

##### **Luke 16:11**

*So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?*

##### **Matt 25:21 (NIV)**

*His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'*

Your heart follows your treasure

##### **Matt 6:21 (NIV)**

*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

All things were created to point to Jesus.