

#4: Finding Balance

Series: Financial Wisdom

A. Balanced Spending:

1. Mentally steady – never spend money on _____ or reaction
2. Equally proportioned between 2 opposing ends – giving your money away and spending it on yourself

B. After you are debt-free and tithing, then what?

C. 2 Extremes when it comes to all your “remaining money”

a. Hedonism - your “personal _____ or happiness is of ultimate importance”

1. “eat, drink, and be merry! Have fun with all your extra money!”
2. Lk 12:19 – “You fool! Life does not consist of “personal pleasure,” of the abundance of your _____.”
3. How you spend your money or give your money away will be a foundational part of your legacy. The question simply is this: how do you want to be remembered?

b. Gnosticism - human beings are, at our core, spiritual beings who are trapped in an _____, material world

1. Get as far away from money and material possessions as you can; all they can do is cause you harm; in a sense, they are evil, and you only want to deal with them as sparingly as possible
2. but, Jesus’ message to the masses was this: “Be thankful for what you have; and, be a good _____ of what you have. Yes love yourself, but be certain to love God and other people too.”

D. 2 schools of thought

1. live as _____ as possible; be cheap, be frugal, spend nothing, even if that something really does have the potential to make you happy or safe
2. spend it all with no worries; use credit, get into debt, don’t worry about the future.

E. The balance? Spend some on yourself, but _____ a lot of it away too; always remembering the bottom line principle, that your life does not consist of your possessions

1. What *does* your life consist of?

a. if you have not _____, you have nothing

F. Is this purchase the most loving thing I can do with my money?

G. Does this purchase help create a better environment for love? Does it at least set a better stage for me to love God, other people, or myself more?

H. Life does *not* consist in the abundance of our possessions, rather life consists in the abundance of our relationships

1. impulse C. pleasure 2. possessions b. evil 2. steward D1. cheaply E. give a. love