

# FINANCIAL PEACE

A biblical step-by-step approach to success with money & personal finances.

Lesson #5

## Slow Down & Change Gears

- In September, the 4 lessons covered a lot of ground:
  1. Save \$1,000 (Starter Emergency Fund) & create a budget
  2. Pay off debts (except mortgage) using Debt Snowball
  3. Finish saving in Emergency Fund (3-6 months expenses)
  4. Invest 15% of income for Retirement
  5. Save/Invest for kid's College
  6. Pay off your Mortgage early
  7. Build Wealth & Give Generously
- There were a few things about the “how” and “why” that I only mentioned briefly, but are really important

# ACCOUNTABILITY

- Firstly, you ARE accountable to God.
  - Romans 14:12 “So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.”
- One day you will stand before God and give an account for everything you have done since you were saved - including how you handled the money that God blessed you with, and if you followed his instruction about money.
- Unless you know everything, and always make the best decisions, it is wise to have another person to help you stay on track, to sort through tough decisions, to stay focused.
  - Proverbs 15:22 “Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.”

# ACCOUNTABILITY

Singles – This is hard for you if you are not disciplined with money.

So, it is wise to find a fellow Christian that can help you:

- You don't want to choose someone just like you.
- A close Christian friend or relative that thinks differently than you
- Tell them what your goals are, what you are working on financially (getting out of debt, building your emergency fund, buying a house, investing for retirement, saving for college, paying off mortgage, etc.)
- Give them permission to ask you about your finances periodically.
- Discuss any financial moves you make with that person before you make it.
- If you find yourself letting things slide - like your budgeting, your spending, your giving, your saving & your investing – you need to find a person that will help keep you accountable.

# ACCOUNTABILITY

- Married – maybe easier; maybe harder (you MUST work together)
  - Ladies & Gentlemen – The marriage roles described in the bible apply to your financial life, too. In God's eyes you are one flesh, but..
  - Let's read Eph 5:22-33 (I know you've heard it before, but now I'm asking that you do it while thinking of your finances.)
    - **Men** – Your wives have a NEED that you may not have. Women, generally, have a need to feel secure that your financial life is in order. If it is not, and you are doing nothing about it (as the head of the family) and/or you won't hear her out regarding her concerns...you are not loving her or "giving yourself" for your wife, as instructed by God.
    - **Men** – Scripturally, it is your responsibility to get this part of your marriage in order. Talk to your wife, solicit her help, make a financial plan **together**. She might be better with numbers, a budget, etc. Great! But the responsibility is yours! You can't put this all on her.

# ACCOUNTABILITY

- Married – Maybe even harder (you NEED to work together)
  - V. 22 “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord” ...v.24 “...in every thing.”
    - **Ladies** – God says the man is the head of the woman in a marriage. This does not mean he is better than you in any way. He is just designated by God to fill the role of decision maker. He should listen to your input (constructive, please), seek wise counsel, and make decisions that line up with the scriptures. It is his responsibility, he will answer to God for it one day, but it is your responsibility to help him and not fight against his decisions.
- **Married folks** – You will STRUGGLE in your financial life unless you work together, set goals together, budget together, make buying decisions together, etc.
- Don't let “the big 3” sins that Pastor Kohl has preached on several times (Pride, Rebellion, Stubbornness) control your marriage.



# ACCOUNTABILITY

- I'm not meddling or trying to bring shame on anyone here. I'm genuinely trying to help your marriage and this church family.
- I've had more than a couple ladies here at FBBC tell me they desperately want to get their finances straightened out, but they can't get their husbands to get involved.
- I've had more than a couple men here at FBBC tell me they desperately want to get their finances straightened out, but they can't get their wives to control their spending and help get it right.
- Please listen carefully. If you won't work with your spouse to address your finances, you don't have a financial problem. You have a marriage problem.
  - 1 Peter 3:7 "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge...that your prayers be not hindered."
  - James 4:10 "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."
  - Proverbs 22:4 "By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honour, and life."

# “NERDS” VS “FREE SPIRITS”

- In most marriages, it seems that God puts opposites together. (But not always)
- Usually, one spouse is better with numbers, likes math, likes planning, wants things arranged, always wants to “make things happen”, and likes to save money. It’s okay...it can just be a little irritating to their spouse. We’ll call these people “nerds”.
- The other spouse is then often not very interested in planning things, despises math, likes to “go with the flow”, often says “don’t worry it will work out”, or “let’s see what happens”. They are the spenders. It’s okay...it can just be a little irritating to their spouse. We’ll call these people “free spirits”.
- “Nerds” and “free spirits” make a great team for handling finances, with some basic rules and understanding:
  - Nerds – you should probably prepare the budget, then schedule a meeting to go over it with your spouse. You’ll need to listen to the input of your spouse and allow changes.
  - Free spirits – you have to show up at the meeting, look the budget over, and discuss anything that you don’t think is correct or that needs to change. Once you agree, you also have to abide by the limits of the budget (your mutual plan).



# “NERDS” VS “FREE SPIRITS”

- Nerds – You aren’t the dictator of all things financial. You and your spouse are a team. You don’t get to have it your way, and just give your spouse an “allowance”.
- Free spirits – You don’t get to just do “whatever” and forget the budget.
- Your budget is nothing but your mutual plan for how your money will be spent each month. **Before** each month starts, you should prepare, discuss, modify, and agree on your budget for the upcoming month. You therefore need to know:
  - How much money is coming in that month (or at least a good estimate)?
  - What bills need to be paid that month, and when?
    - Don’t forget to budget for giving, vehicle maintenance, gasoline, insurance, etc.
  - When bills are paid, what is your mutual goal & priority for whatever is left?
    - Paying down debt, building emergency fund, etc.
    - Saving for the next vehicle, putting money away for Christmas gifts or a vacation, etc.
    - How much should you allow for enjoyment that month?
  - Nerds – think it through and discuss with your spouse
  - Free spirits – understand these things won’t work themselves out, so help sort thru it



## HOW DOES YOUR FINANCIAL STORY GO? WELL, IT DEPENDS WHAT YOU DO NOW...

- Be accountable to someone.
  - God first – follow His teaching on financial matters.
  - Your spouse (if married) or a trusted friend/relative (if single).
  - When you don't know what to do, feel like giving up, when you want to splurge (and know you can't afford it), when you struggle to stay on track/budget...talk to God (pray), talk to your spouse / accountability partner, and get additional help (wise counsel) as necessary.
- The good news is the “pain” of budgeting and getting out of debt is only temporary. You'll get very used to budgeting, and will only spend 10-15 minutes each month. Once you're out of debt, and experience the peace that comes with it, you'll never want to go back.
- Think about the fun of trying to figure out what to do with excess money, instead of trying to figure out how to cover your bills.

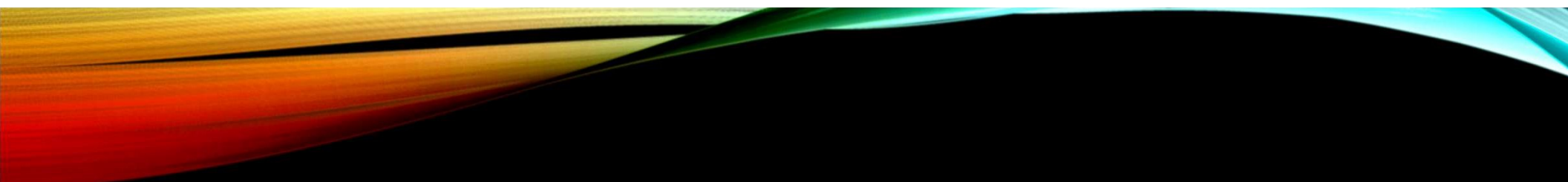
# NEXT WEEK

- We'll talk about the focus & intensity needed with your finances:
  - Some things are urgent
  - Some things are not
  - How much time does this take anyway?
  - The need to plan



**See You**  
*next week*

And Have A Blessed Day

- 
- If you have questions:
    - Please do not interrupt class time.
    - Write them down on paper and give them to me.
    - Ask me personally after the AM service.
    - Send them to me via e-mail: [omaramike@juno.com](mailto:omaramike@juno.com)
  - Oct – my wife and I will be here at 5 PM every Sunday night