

## What does God say about having personal debt?

We live in a culture that is debt oriented and largely debt driven. Whether it is the government increasing national debt to pay for things today or people maxing out their credit cards in order to have what they want or believe they need, debt is everywhere around us.

1. How does debt impact our lives?

Proverbs **22:7; 26-27**

Psalm **37:21**

Debt enslaves the borrower entangling him in regards to his future actions. When you are in debt, you are obligated to do whatever it takes to work off that debt. To be unable or unwilling to pay back a debt is a form of great wickedness.

2. What are some attitudes driving debt?

1 Timothy **6:10**

Proverbs **3:31**

James **4:13**

One of the primary attitudes driving debt is the desire to have more and more. It is an unwillingness to wait in order to receive that which is desired. Debt is often driven by envy, a great desire to have more or to have what someone else has. Instead of being satisfied with what you already have, debt is incurred because of a desire to possess more. Debt is also driven by the belief that the income of today will continue to remain accessible and at its current or increased level well into the future.

3. What should our attitude toward debt be?

1 Corinthians 13:4

Ecclesiastes **5:4-5**

James **4:13-14**

Luke **14:28-30**

Psalm **37:4**

When dealing with debt, it is necessary to be certain of your ability to pay for it. This means that at a minimum that you only incur debt for those things that are absolutely necessary and that comfortably fit within your financial state. When incurring a debt, make sure that the duration of the debt is within a time frame that is appropriate. We should have a desire to escape from being in debt by delighting ourselves in God and the things of God rather than the things of the world.

4. What should we keep in mind about our finances?

Genesis **39:1-6**

Psalm 24:1

Luke 3:14

1 Timothy **6:8-9**

Philippians **4:19**

1 Corinthians 4:7

The first principle of finances is that God owns everything. By God's grace, we function as stewards over all money and possessions that God chooses to place under our control. Because God owns everything, everything we possess needs to be treated as though God gave it. If God gave it to us then it only makes sense to be content with whatever God has given.