

Contentment comes from knowing the very best life for me is found within the boundaries God has given me.

- Those boundaries help me grow.
- Those boundaries let me see God's unique provision for me.
- Those boundaries keep me safe.

Two things I asked of You ... Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food that is my portion, That I not be full and deny You and say, "Who is the LORD?" Or That I not be in want and steal, And profane the name of my God. - Proverbs 30:7-9

I honor God when I am content in what He gives me.

*The LORD is the portion of my inheritance and my cup; You support my lot. The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; Indeed, my heritage is beautiful to me.
- Psalms 16:5-6*

III. How do I know what can I afford?

I know what I can afford when I have understood and prioritized my financial commitments.

Financial priorities:

1. How much do I need for current financial responsibilities?
2. How much do I need to save per month for short-term future responsibilities?
3. How much do I need to save per month to prepare for long-term future responsibilities?
4. Do I have any money left over? If so, would I like to use it for something now or later?

IV. But what if I can afford the payments?

Answer: Unless you're rich, you can't

- When we borrow money we enter into bondage.

The rich rules over the poor, And the borrower becomes the lender's slave. - Proverbs 22:7 NNAS

- When all our resources are consumed and we still need more we are living foolishly.

In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil, but a foolish man devours all he has. Proverbs 21:20

- Part of the blessing of God is to have an abundance; part of the curse of God is to have to borrow.

Deuteronomy 28:12-13; 43-44

- There is a course of life that God wants for us that results in an accumulation of wealth - in every area of life - as we go through life.

*Blessed is the man who finds wisdom,
the man who gains understanding,
for she is more profitable than silver
and yields better returns than gold.
She is more precious than rubies;
nothing you desire can compare with her.
Long life is in her right hand;
in her left hand are riches and honor.
- Proverbs 3:13-16*

*With me are riches and honor, enduring wealth and prosperity.
- Proverbs 8:18*

*Humility and the fear of the LORD bring wealth and honor and life.
- Proverbs 22:4*

V. Only the rich can afford to borrow money...

Buying, Paying and Earning

On average, each household with a credit card carries \$8,284 in credit card debt.

The average interest rate is 15.32%

According to the interest calculator: If you make minimum monthly payments on a balance of **\$8284.00** with a **15.32% APR**, it will take you

176 months to pay off your debt, . In that time, you will pay **\$5778.64** in interest charges

How to use the system to get a car

A \$20,000 car at 4.5% 5 year loan costs \$22,371.62 w/ payments of \$373/mo.

But, if you could save the money at the same rate the payments would be before you bought the car...

\$373/mo saved for five years in a 4.5% return is \$25,045.

Instead of paying \$2,371 interest, you earn \$5,045. That is a difference of \$7,516.

That is almost half the price of the car!

How (not) borrowing for a good education can help your retirement.

Student loans of \$20,000 at 4.5% require a repayment of \$207/mo for 10 years, totaling \$24,840.

But, if you could come to school with savings, work while in school, live cheap, or all of the above, so that you did not need to borrow money, and then after graduating made savings deposits of the amounts the loans would have been...

\$207/mo for 10 years, invested at 6.5% interest, then left (with no more payments made) at an average of 8% for another 33 years, becomes a total of \$484,878.

The cost in this case for borrowing \$20,000 for school: \$489,718

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT FOR THE CHILDREN OF GOD

or

Lessons about Money You Don't Want to Learn the Hard Way

"Unless you are faithful in small matters, you won't be faithful in large ones... if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven?"

- Jesus, Luke 16:10-11

II. Three plans for financial management:

- 1. The "I'm doing my part for the economy" plan
- I only buy what I really want.**

- Proverbs 27:20

*He who loves pleasure will become poor;
whoever loves wine and oil will never be rich.
- Proverbs 21:17*

- 2. The "Mall trip Guilt trip" plan
- I only buy what I really need.**

- 1 Timothy 6:7-8

- 3. The "Freedom & Peace of Mind" plan
- I only buy what I can afford.**

Rests on a basic premise: God will provide the means for everything - material and otherwise - that I need for a happy life.

... put [your] hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. - 1 Timothy 6:17

- Romans 8:31-32