

Biblical Counseling Center introduces eCounselor's Weekly guide, to encourage counselors and all believers in discipleship and daily growth.

\$Money\$ – Can it be Trusted When Times are Tough? by Jeff Temple

Liza Minelli and Joel Grey performed a song and dance routine in the 1972 musical Cabaret. The movie is set in 1930 Germany during the Great Depression. The song is about the love of money, depending on money to provide security and comfort.



*If you haven't any coal in the stove and you freeze in the winter
And you curse on the wind at your fate.
When you haven't any shoes on your feet and your coat's thin as paper
And you look thirty pounds underweight.
When you go to get a word of advice from the fat little pastor
He will tell you to love evermore.
But when hunger comes a rap, rat-a-tat, rat-a-tat at the window...
Who's there? Hunger! Ooh, hunger!
See how **love** flies out the door...
Money makes the world go around....*

These lyrics describe dire financial conditions of the time and that God's call to love cannot be trusted. Or can it?

› **The wisdom of God's Word stands forever, so consider what love accomplishes.**

What you sow, you reap. Therefore if you sow love towards your neighbor you will reap love. The wisdom of Proverbs (17:17; 18:24; 27:7-10) points out the effects of brotherly love in a community of believers. Love bonds us together (Col 3:14) and the example of the young church in Acts proves that love can prosper (Acts 2:42-47). Add to this the example of love the Philippians had toward Paul personally and for his ministry, clearly understanding that God would supply all their needs (Php 4:10-20). Love always rises to meet needs. Consider John 3:16 – God gave out of love to meet our eternal need.

› **What does God think about the love of money?**

The love of money exposes faithlessness in our hearts, so it is an abomination to God (Luke 16:13-15). Living for money is a slave master that drives a man far away from God's love and purposes here on earth. It causes grievous trouble as its ugly root fosters greediness and worldliness in a man (1 Tim 6:10). Solomon recognized the vanity of striving for riches to the neglect of loving relationships (Ecc 4:7-8). How many dads in our culture have bought into this lie, believing the stuff they work so hard to provide will satisfy their families, when what is needed most is a loving husband and father!

The love of money begins when there is little trust in God's compassion and provision (Mt 6:24-34). Jesus invited his followers to consider how God loves and cares for all of His creation. Why would He not provide for those He created in His own image and loved in every way? If we believe God won't provide, anxiety creeps in and idolatry rushes through the door as we strive to provide for ourselves. This is true for our salvation, or for our finances. Has or will God provide? Can we trust Him? When we truly seek first HIS kingdom and righteousness, His loving provision becomes so evident! He wants us to trust HIM, not our own idolatrous selves to provide our needs.

› **So, how do we keep ourselves free from the love of money?**

The answer is obvious – the fat little preacher understood something that the songwriter did not—it is “to love evermore.” True love pushes hunger and lack out the door with mercy and truth (Prv 3:3-4). Love is the most powerful force ever (1Cor 13). The world that money makes go around is not a world where God's children find contentment.

Troubles just test our faith and build endurance and maturity in us (Jas 1:2-12). Financial troubles strengthen us in trusting God as He guides us through tough times. We learn what true riches really are and we humbly love and help one another rather than greedily grab for ourselves. Our anxiety turns to peace as we trust His provision. We find eternal rewards in love (Mt 22:36-40). Let's not get so enraptured with the love of money and all its trappings that we neglect true riches in our Lord!

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God, and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. (Php 4:6,7,19)

Biblical Counseling Center

[Main Office](#) - 3233 N Arlington Heights Rd, Suite 302 • Arlington Heights IL 60004

[Fox Lake Office](#), Fox Lake Community Church • [Lynwood Office](#), Lynwood United Reformed Church

Email info@biblicalcounselingcenter.org • Telephone (847) 398-7193

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