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by
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CAREER DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What counsel would you give to a young Christian considering a career or educational opportunity which will result in a long-term obligation which prevents normative involvement in the Body of Christ (i.e. medical school, enlisting in the Armed Forces, professional sports, etc.)?
2. Which of the following careers has the highest or lowest stature in regard to spirituality?
 - a. Medical Profession
 - b. Fine Arts Professional
 - c. Ditch Digger
 - d. Business Administrator
3. What is your counsel to a young Christian who has a job opportunity in another city?
4. Under what circumstances would it be right for a Christian to move out of town?
5. A 19 yr. old single young Christian says, "I am not interested in developing a career because I want to serve the Lord." How do you counsel him?
6. How far can your institution go in unethical practices before your job becomes unethical
 - a. Nurse in a pediatric wing of a hospital which performs abortions?
 - b. Receptionist in an abortion clinic?
 - c. Printer for "Hustler"? "Money"? "Better Homes and Gardens
 - d. Bartender at Victoria Station? Ruby Tuesdays? Sinsation

e. Employee in any business in which you know or strongly suspect that the owner is corrupt or shady in his business dealings?

PERSONAL FINANCE

ATTITUDES CONCERNING MONEY & POSSESSIONS

1. God owns the world and all that is in it. (I Cor. 4:7; Ps. 24:1; Job 41:11; I Chron. 29:12-15)
2. Believers should acknowledge God's right to control their wealth because private property is stewardship - not ownership. To this end:
 - a. God has entrusted His possessions with you. Thus, private property is affirmed by the Bible. Therefore, no one has the right to force you to use your property in a way which is against your will. (Acts 5:4; Eph. 4:28; II Thes. 3:12)
 - b. But God holds you responsible to acknowledge His ownership of your property and to use it in a way which advances His purposes. (Matt. 25:14-30; Acts 4:32; Lk. 12:41-44)
3. If you cannot give away any and/or all of your possessions, you are an idolater. (Col. 3:5; Lk. 14:33; Lk. 18:18-23)
4. Our possessions should be considered a means for ministry and therefore an opportunity for spiritual growth. (Lk. 16:11; Gal. 6:6-10; Rom. 12:8; Phil. 1:5; 4:15; I Tim. 6:17-19)
5. Worrying about money or trusting in it is a sin, because this attitude denies the faithfulness of the Owner to His stewards. (Matt. 6:24-34; Phil. 4:6)
6. In the NT, wealth is in no way a sign of God's blessing or spiritual success. (Matt. 19:23,24; Lk. 12:13-21; Jas. 5:1-6; Rev. 3:17,18)
7. Wealth should be viewed with caution because it tends to stunt spiritual growth. (Matt. 6:21-23; 13:22; I Tim. 6:9,10; Prov. 30:8,9)
8. Wanting to or deciding to get rich is wrong. (Matt. 6:19; I Tim. 6:9,10; I Jn. 2:15-17; Phil. 4:12; Heb. 13:5; I Cor. 5:11)
9. Serving the Lord for the sake of financial gain is disgraceful. (Matt. 23:14; Jn. 10:12,13; Acts 8:20; II Cor. 2:17; 11:20; I Thes. 2:5; I Tim. 3:3,8; I Pet. 5:2)
10. Showing partiality to the rich is prohibited. (Jas. 2:1-7; Acts 20:20,27,33,34; I Tim. 6:17-19) The poor (especially the Christian poor) should be cared for. (I Jn. 3:17; Gal. 6:10; Prov. 14:31; 17:5; 21:13; 29:7)

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PERSONAL FINANCE - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do I distinguish between "needs" and "wants"? If I do, how do I define that distinction?
2. Is it right to have a proportional relationship between what I make and what I buy? That is, should things be bought simply because I can afford them?
3. Of money spent on myself, do I make a distinction between expenditures which promote my spiritual growth and excessive investment in hobbies and other less significant activities?
4. Am I equally stable in conditions of abundance and scarcity? If I am not, what does this mean?
5. Do my actions show that I realize that greed can lead to the destruction of my spiritual walk?
6. Aside from normal allotment of time for vacation, school, family and sleep, where is my free time specifically invested: in material & personal gain, or in spiritual growth & ministry?
7. Do opportunities for my spiritual and material advancement ever conflict? If they do not, what could this mean? If they do, how do I routinely choose?
8. Do I ask for spiritual counsel regarding my personal finances (i.e. major purchases, job changes, saving & giving plans, etc.)? Is there a relationship between my answer and my view of possessions (i.e. stewardship vs. ownership)?
9. Have I demonstrated the ability to "draw the line" with my job's demand of my time? Am I willing to pass up promotions, or even get a different job if it conflicts with my spiritual growth and the advancement of my personal ministry?

10. Do I have concrete short-term and long-term goals for my spiritual growth and personal ministry? If not, what does this mean?
11. Do I give substantial amounts of money to God's work in a consistent way? If not, why not?
12. Do any of these questions anger me? Why?