

# Ingratitude

Why is being thankful such a big deal?

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 - Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, **give thanks** in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

## Romans 1:18-25

The 2 great sins in the world: v.21

- 1.) Idolatry – “they did not honor him as God”
- 2.) Ingratitude – “or give thanks to him”

# Idolatry

## What is idolatry?

Examples :

- My OCD
- Wealth

As Christians, we fear idolatry. So, many times we **overcorrect** and distance ourselves from creation (the good gift)

- Colossians 2:20-23 – Why no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh?
- 1 Timothy 4:1-5

**Philippians 3:7-8** – But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

**Philippians 3:18-19** – For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.

**Philippians 4:6-8** – do not be anxious about anything, 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 your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

**1 Timothy 4:3-5** – who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods **that God created to be received with thanksgiving** by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and **nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving**, for it is **made holy by the word of God and prayer**.

If our **mindset** is on God (Phroneo)...

And we truly are **thankful** for the gift...

Is there ever a time to restrict our enjoyment of God's creation?

Yes...Self-denial

1 Corinthians 8

Romans 14:1-2; 14-23

1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1

1.) If it violates YOUR conscience

2.) Sacrificial love for ANOTHER BELIEVER

What about the accumulation of God's good gifts here on Earth? **Wealth**

1.) Wealth is more than money

2.) Wealth is Good

- Several wealthy people in the Bible
  - Abraham - Genesis 13:2
  - Solomon - richest man in history 2 Chronicles 9:13-29
  - Job - richest man in his day Job 1:3
  - Jesus had a group of wealthy women provide for Him - Luke 8:1-3; John 12:3

Prosperity is a gift from God

- Deuteronomy 8:18
- Deuteronomy 28:11-12
- 1 Timothy 6:17

What about the accumulation of God's good gifts here on Earth? **Wealth**

- 1.) Wealth is more than money
- 2.) Wealth is Good
- 3.) Wealth is Dangerous

1 Timothy 6:6-10 - But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But **those who desire to be rich fall into temptation**, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. **For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils.** It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.



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Mark 10:23-25 - And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How **difficult it will be for those who have wealth** to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God."

What about the accumulation of God's good gifts here on Earth? **Wealth**

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Matthew 6:24 - "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve God and money.**

Hebrews 13:5 - Keep your life **free from love of money**, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

So how should we deal with wealth?

## 1.) Be Thankful

Deuteronomy 28:45-48 - “All these curses shall come upon you and pursue you and overtake you till you are destroyed, because you did not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to keep his commandments and his statutes that he commanded you. They shall be a sign and a wonder against you and your offspring forever. **Because you did not serve the Lord your God with joyfulness and gladness of heart, because of the abundance of all things,** therefore you shall serve your enemies whom the Lord will send against you, in hunger and thirst, in nakedness, and lacking everything. And he will put a yoke of iron on your neck until he has destroyed you.

So how should we deal with wealth?

1.) Be Thankful

2.) Give Abundantly

Luke 12:32-34 - “Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. **Sell your possessions, and give to the needy.** Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

## 1 Timothy 6:17-19 – Talking to the rich

v17a.)

- **Don't** be conceited
- **Don't** set your hope on wealth
- **Do** set your hope on God

v17b.-18)

- God richly provides your wealth for you to enjoy (So be thankful)
- The rich must do good with their wealth
- Enjoying does NOT mean hoarding, they must be generous with their giving

v19.)

- Even with us abundantly giving, God returns that for good
- Doesn't that sound like our God's character? Slave > Friend > Heir > Son