

Broke: Stress, Money, & the Gospel
Dumb Debt: The Path to Freedom

Proverbs 22:7

01.25.15

Driving thought: Humility is the key to getting out of unnecessary debt.

Why would we talk about money & debt?

- 1) The Bible talks about money and debt...a lot.
- 2) Debt is a problem. The #1 cause of divorce is financial fights.
- 3) Because you can be financially sunk before graduating high school.

U.S. household consumer debt profile (December 2014):

Average credit card debt: (\$15,611 avg. w/credit card debt, \$7,283 avg.)

Average student loan debt: \$32,264

Average mortgage debt: \$155,192

Average number of US households living paycheck to paycheck: 55%

What the Bible has to say about debt:

- Debt can be a sign of _____ – 1 Sam. 22:1-2
- Debt is a metaphor of our _____ against God – Mt. 6:12, 18:27; Col. 2:13-14
- _____ loans taking advantage of the poor are wrong – Ex. 22:25-27; Job 24:3-4
- Co-signing for someone else's debt is _____ – Prov. 6:1-5; 22:26-27
- The forgiving of debts (Year of Jubilee) is a foreshadowing of Christ's _____ of sin – Lev. 25:10

The power of losing little by little:

2 packs of cigarettes per week = \$8 per week/\$416 year

2 twelve packs of beer per week/5 trips to Starbucks/eating out at lunch at work vs. brown bagging it = \$20 per week/\$1040 year

3 lottery tickets per week = \$3 per week/\$156 year

Total = \$1612 x 25 years = \$40,300 with no interest.

\$1612 x 25 years at 5% compound interest once a year = \$82,406.52

The road out of debt and into financial freedom:

- 1) Self-control: develop a basic budget (see outline)
- 2) God: Start tithing 10% (next week, "Getting Ahead: Giving & Bills")
- 3) Emergency expenses: Start saving for a \$1,000 Emergency Fund
- 4) Debt: Eliminate smaller debts first
- 5) Future: Begin investing: save at least 10% of income in tax-sheltered plan

*Christian financial ministries: www.daveramsey.com & www.crown.org

Key: desperation/sin/Predatory/unwise/forgiveness

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- **Predatory** loans taking advantage of the poor are wrong – Ex. 22:25-27; Job 24:3-4
- Co-signing for someone else's debt is **unwise** – Prov. 6:1-5; 22:26-27
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