

## Financial Readiness Class 1

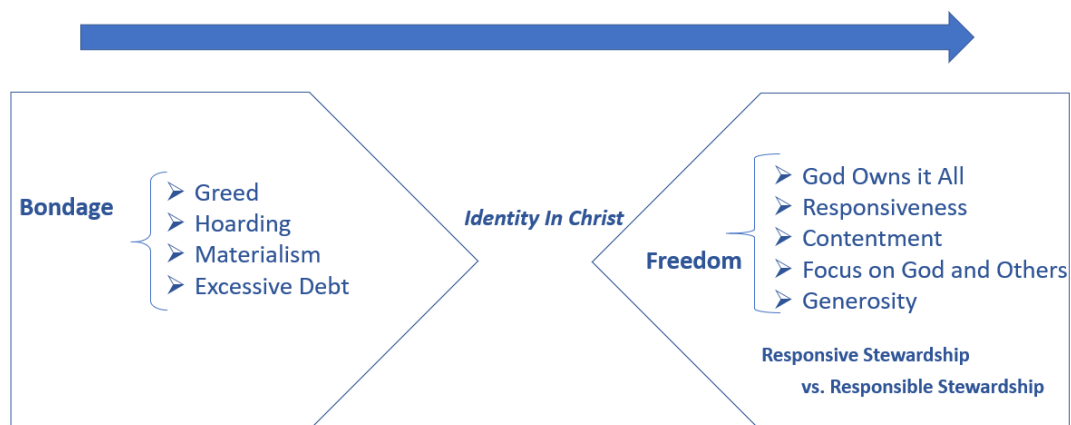
### Responsive Stewardship

1. Who Am I / Identity
  2. Our heart follows our money.
  3. Only find true contentment in Christ.
- Responsive Stewardship

Understanding my true identity is the key to winning the victory over strongholds in my life. I am so much more than a slave.

- What does identity mean? Who does God say we are, as believers and followers of Christ?
- Do we always function out of this true identity?
  - Concept of misplaced identity (i.e. finding it in someone or something other than in Christ) and over-identifying with someone or something is idolatry.
- Why do we misplace identity?
  - Original sin- Adam and Eve desired to be like God – Gen 3: 4-6
    - Lies of the enemy- false expectation, cultural influence (American Dream), we define or determine what is good
  - We were made to worship something (we try to fill a void with things that only Christ can fill)
- Where do we misplace our identity (i.e. false identities)
  - Self
  - Possessions – money, house, cars, clothes.
  - Relationships – spouse/marriage, friends
  - Position – work/career, title, power, abilities/talents/intelligence
  - Time and Activities – comfort, destinations, media, justic issues, politics, Sports How we steward our lives, and ultimately, how we put the Gospel on display, is in direct relation to where we find/place our identity.
- What are the consequences of trying to find our identity in something other than Christ?
  - Pride → Arrogance vs. humility; anger vs. gentleness; unrealistic expectations; poor stewardship

When our identity is off or wrong it leads to bondage, among other things.



## **Over 2300 verses on how we handle our money and possessions**

### ***Freedom***

**God Owns it All** – (this will change your perception on everything)

- Deuteronomy 10:14 – “Behold, to the LORD your God belong to heaven and the highest mountain, the earth and all that is in it.”
- Psalms 89:11 – “The heavens are Yours, the earth also is Yours, the World and all it contains, You have found them.”
- “If a person gets his attitude toward money straight, it will help straighten out almost every other area of his life.” - Billy Graham
- Matt 25:14 “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them.” (Read the rest of this parable) We are merely stewards of his resources.

### **The Love of Earthly Things**

1. Matthew 6:19-24 – our heart follows our money.
2. Luke 12: 13-23 – Accumulating wealth can take our dependence off Christ. We become “me” focused.
3. Mark 10:17-25 – Wealth is alluring and so easily becomes our idol, our god, while not realizing it.

### **Contentment**

- Living – 1 Timothy 6:6-8 “Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, we cannot take anything out of the world.”
- Love of Money – Hebrews 13:5 “Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’”
- Paul speaks of his contentment - Philippians 4:11-12 – “.....for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty.”