



Sermon Notes from 3 February

The Real Problem Is Not Money; It is Love (1 Timothy 6:6–10)

by Rev Guna Raman

1 Tim 6:10 – Money is not the root of all evil; it is the **love** of money that becomes the source of all kinds of evil.

3 Questions:

1) How Is The Love Of Money a Root of Evil?

The love of money is connected to bigger issues than money itself. It is not an over spending or hoarding issue; it is rooted in 4 Problems:

#1 Contentment Problem (v6)

Discontentment results from misplaced contentment in temporal things that do not last. It brings forth an 'I deserve more' attitude and entitlement. Ultimately, discontentment becomes a deep spiritual problem that questions the goodness of God. A discontented person also becomes inwardly focused. *If God is in the center of your world, you would instinctively depend on God's grace to provide and live.* If you are at the center, money becomes your surrogate (replacement savior).

#2 Identity Problem (v7) The love of money is connected to forgetting who you are. *Your life is not just about the days here on earth – you are hard-wired for eternity.* If you have been created for a life beyond this one; it makes little sense to view life as being all about the 'now'. Loving money sits right in the middle of a lifestyle that forgets eternity. You prioritize the present and focus more on physical comfort than on eternal destiny.

#3 Fallen World Problem (v9) When you get to heaven, you will see so much wealth, it does not bother or attract you. However, because of sin, we are surrounded by temptations in this fallen world. This leads you to worship creation over the Creator (Rom 1). You would yearn from creation what only the Creator can give you: life.

#4 Worship Problem (v9) Worship is sacrifice. If you love money, you worship it, and it leads you to sacrifice your family,

health, integrity, gifts and time for it. This brings about all kinds of evil in your life.

2) Why The Love Of Money Makes You Dangerous To You?

If you love money, you become unable to say 'no' to yourself. Self-centered living curses authority and rejects rules and restraints. *When you live for God, He will give you a grace driven desire and the power to say 'no' to yourself.* The power to say 'no' submits to a greater and higher Someone that rules over everything: God Almighty. *The love of money replaces the love for God in your heart.* When you are at the center of your life, you will never say 'no' to you. Make God the center of your heart!

What Does This 'I am a danger to myself' lifestyle look like?

#1 "I deserve" Unquestioned You feel entitled to spend on yourself without questions.

#2 "I want" Unrestrained You chase your personal desires with no regard for anything else.

#3 "Me first" Undebated You view other people as obstacles in your way and question the sovereignty and goodness of God.

#4 "I will" Unchallenged You set yourself up as 'king' instead of living for the King of Kings.

You cannot have yourself at the center and not end up with a life that is evil in the eyes of God.

3) What Is The One Practical Rescue Plan From The Love Of Money?

Giving your money to God is the answer! This is a tangible demonstration of your love for God. *Giving rekindles the Agape Spirit within you and delivers you from the love of money.* You develop a heart for God and others around you and depend on Him for your needs. Give to God because He has rescued you!