



Depth Perception™

Commentary from Design For Ministry™
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A Money Mania Excerpt 15 August 2005

Excerpted from p.48ff out of the recently released book "Money Mania: Mastering the Allure of Excess" by Mark L. Vincent. Money Mania can be ordered at www.DesignForMinistry.com

Provision is taking care of the basics – housing, clothing, medicine, groceries, reliable transportation. This is different from consumption expenses like entertainment, clothing you don't need, a car stereo, gift giving, or eating out. Many people do not distinguish between the costs to provide for their household and the costs of doing fun things. They're not willing to limit their fun, so they overspend. They cover their ears to the total and hide their eyes, hoping it will all work out by the end of the month without doing the math.

Unfortunately, some Christian-based money management systems do not make this distinction either. They might talk about "giving, saving and spending," but the "spending" part of things is not divided between needs and wants. As a result, grabbing a soda at the convenience store is treated equally with buying groceries. Going out to eat is treated equally with paying for medical prescriptions. The result is poor habits, which are transmitted to

children as readily as good ones – possibly even more so.

Additionally, young people – and their parents – do not learn to be exact. They are good people – good people who keep getting into financial trouble. [They need to be] reminded that they only have 100 percent of what they have. It is amazing how many do not want to hear this truth. Since most are not accountants, they throw up their hands and pretend there is nothing they can do.

"The discipline is to **not** spend money allocated for one thing on another."

Since it is difficult for many people to measure their money exactly, allocating their money [into giving, saving, spending and providing] helps them become effective even if in a less precise manner. Everyone can count to four. Rather than putting energy into precise money management, energy is put into financial discipline. The discipline is to **not** spend money allocated for one thing on another.

- mark l vincent