

When Is Enough, Enough?

The Bible doesn't give absolute guidelines for deciding when enough is enough, but the following nine principles can provide guidance for making wise financial decisions or evaluating a desire to purchase something.

- 1 Start with the right attitude: everything you have has been created by God, is owned by God, and is used for God's purposes.
- 2 If the desire seems reasonable to mature Christian brothers and sisters whose discernment you respect, it is usually wise.
- 3 If the desire arises from pain over the plight of the poor, the unfortunate, or the disenfranchised, it is likely to be Spirit-led and honoring to God.
- 4 If the desire involves the well-being of children, it is often right.
- 5 If the desire is primarily one of wanting to improve your own living conditions or lifestyle, you should not automatically assume it is wrong.
- 6 Consider whether the desire springs from incompleteness in your relationship with Christ. Are you trying to fill any empty place in your heart?
- 7 Consider whether the resources of God's creation would be adequate to provide for all of his children the thing you desire for yourself.
- 8 Evaluate how important your desire seems in the context of your own mortality. Ask, "How important will this purchase seem to me when I am on my deathbed?"
- 9 Ask, "What would Jesus do in my situation?"

If we try to answer the question, "When is enough, enough?" on the basis of what someone else has, enough will never be enough. And if we love money, Ecclesiastes 5:10 warns: "Whoever loves money never has money enough."

"There are two ways to get enough," G. K. Chesterton has pointed out. "One is to continue to accumulate more and more. The other is to desire less."

Options at Cherry Hills Community Church

The Good \$ense Ministry at Cherry Hills Community Church offers opportunities to learn sound money-management principles and to receive confidential financial counseling.

For more information, please call 303-791-4500 ext.7650 or send an email to

goodsense@chcc.org.

Points 2 through 6 adapted from Freedom of Simplicity by Richard J. Foster (HarperCollins, San Francisco, 1981), pages 88-89. Other content adapted from Good \$ense Counselor Training