

**Money and Power**  
**Dr. Rod Wilson February, 2018**

**Key Argument**

a. Our contemporary obsession with sexual matters, helps us conveniently ignore the equally important topics of money and power.

Money questions will be treated by cultured people in the same manner as sexual matters, with the same inconsistency, prudishness, and hypocrisy. (Sigmund Freud, "On Beginning the Treatment," Collected Papers. Hogarth Press, 1932)

b. There is a risk that SCSBC schools could think that money is all about revenue and expenses, donations, auditors, year end, fiscal prudence, due diligence, funding vision, being realistic, planning wisely, numbers, etc., and lull themselves into thinking that our biography (my story), our theology (God's story), and our neurology (my brain's story), along with the power behind all three, are unimportant.

**Biography (do I understand the power in my story?)**

- money was a focus
- 1963- delivering TV Guides- 4 cents a copy
- 1964- AA caddy- \$3.00 + tip
- 1969- dairy \$90 week
- accumulation of money was a way to find value
- maybe Oscar Wilde was right;

People don't value sunsets because they cannot pay for them.

- church raised-lots of talk about sex but no \$ talk; silence = suspicion
- reinforced the cultural allure and intoxication; \$ brings value and influence

**Do I know my story and its powerful influence on my approach to money?**

- liked non-profit as money was not the focus, or so I thought
- save don't spend; success of organization is about \$

**Theology (do I understand the power in God's story?)**

1. If we understand ourselves as those created human in the image of God, we recognize that among other things He has given us capacity to think (homo sapien), make (homo faber), and worship (homo adorans).

2. As fallen image bearers we are aware of our tendency to think about, make, and worship the things that God has given to us—like money, sex, and power—rather than use them in a way that honours him and makes Him our God.

3. The power inherent in sex and money provides an allure and intoxication that puts them in the realm of principalities and powers, thus requiring a spiritual battle.

4. A biography and neurology that are not rooted in the economy of God's creation will lead us to consciously and unconsciously think, feel, choose, and act around money and power in ways that are not consistent with His ways.

5. While Jesus spoke about sexual matters and about power, He made it clear that money has the capacity to capture our worship and our service—"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. (Matthew 6:24)

***Do I know God's story and its powerful influence on my approach to money?***

- struggled with theological dualism- mission/education vs. money/business
- preoccupation with money- too much/not enough- can become my worship

**Neurologically (do I understand the power in my brain story?)**

-thalamus- collates and organizes sensory material

-amygdala/limbic system- feeling brain/reptilian brain

-neocortex/prefrontal lobe system- thinking brain

-neocortex bypassed and amygdala may be linked directly with senses (emotional brain) without immediate input from thinking in neocortex

-amygdala connected with hippocampus- which relates to memory

-neocortex provides reasoning and interpretation

-think through guttural/instinctive interactions with environment

-directly tied to values, meanings, worldview and identity

-cannot itself generate emotions but interprets what is happening

-it is then sent to the amygdala

-messages > sympathetic branch of the autonomic nervous system- fight/flight

-body responds with changes in blood pressure, temperature, blood chemistry, heartbeat

-emotion/instinct/amygdala when presented with money, spending, debt, budgets?

-usually the result of programming from biography and culture

***Do I know my brain's story and its powerful influence on my approach to money?***

- amygdala fires on 'debt', 'leveraging debt,' 'all we need is money'
- noticed influence firing amygdala/reptile dysfunction on a community