

## **Greed: Good or Bad? (Introduction)**

Greed: good or bad? What a question! Why do we as Evangelical Christians need to be asking such a question when the answer is so obvious? Here's why. When Christians align themselves with a political party that is pro-greed, they position themselves between that proverbial rock and a hard place. The rock is the Word of God. The hard place is a place they should have never entered into in the first place. But instead of exiting from such an environment, they have chosen to remain and have developed three important survival techniques.

Survival technique #1 involves a cunning and crafty rationalization: "It is possible for someone to be wealthy and not greedy." Anything is possible, but according to the apostle Paul, that possibility is highly unlikely (1 Timothy 6:9-10). Survival technique #2 involves a whiney and moronic insinuation: "Poor people can be greedy too, you know!" And your point? Survival technique #3 involves a cowardly and craven accommodation: "Don't ever do a sermon series on greed!" So when was the last time you heard a sermon series on greed? Let me guess: NEVER?

Well, you are about to hear one, or rather read one, starting with part one of this multiple part study on a sin that has become a massive blind spot for Evangelical Christians in America. How can I be so sure? When was the last time you heard of the sin of greed being associated with the sins of abortion and homosexuality as posing a grave threat to the overall well-being of our nation? Let me guess . . .

There is one passage of New Testament text which stands out above all others in bringing conviction of sin upon American Evangelicals for their willful blindness toward greed. If it doesn't fulfill the purpose of Titus 1:13, nothing will. It involves an interaction Jesus had with the Pharisees, found in Luke 16:13-15 –

**“No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.’ Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, were listening to all these things and were scoffing at Him. And He said to them, ‘You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God.’” (NASB; updated edition)**

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