

Does money matter?



Research by the Evangelical Alliance

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21st Century Evangelicals

A snapshot of the beliefs and habits
of evangelical Christians in the UK

Does money matter?

It's time to get talking

1. Most evangelical Christians seem to be economically secure or quite affluent. Do you have many Christians with low incomes in your church or networks?
2. Jesus came to preach good news to the poor. Do you find it difficult for us to do this effectively in the UK today? If so, why?
3. As Christians we know that material possessions have little eternal value. But how far are we caught up in the patterns of our consumer society – nice house, nice car, latest gadgets, fashionable clothes, exotic holidays etc? What can we do to avoid becoming seduced by consumerism and enslaved to our possessions?
How much is enough? As consumers how can we behave more ethically according to Christian values? Have a look at:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kyph9ycRAEE>
4. Our economy seems to work on the basis of easy credit, financiers demanding interest and chronic levels of debt, which have recently had disastrous economic consequences. However, our survey shows that most Christians have managed their personal finances without running up unmanageable debt.
5. How can we best help those who have personal money problems?
6. How can Christians model and teach more ethical and disciplined ways to manage money?
7. What do you imagine would happen if governments ran their economies on principles of prudence and contentment that are common among Christians?
8. Can you identify scriptures that propose prudential, wise and generous approaches to wealth and money?
9. How can Christians best help tackle poverty in our own local communities? What is the right balance between direct charity (such as food banks and soup kitchens), education and empowerment (such as money management courses and debt counselling), and advocacy and campaigning for a more just and more equal society? What would it mean to “go upstream” to find out what is causing so many people to fall into poverty?
For suggested reading see: Tim Keller ‘Generous Justice’ (2010)
10. Does your church “pester” you with constant appeals for special projects? Or do you take part in some systematic planned giving or stewardship scheme? What are the best ways to finance the ministry of a local church? Does the church distribute or spend its income in ways that Jesus would have?