



"Redefine Your Wealth"



by Monroe Diefendorf, Jr.

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FINANCE / WEALTH

What is wealth? We tend to define wealth as a measurement of financial status associated specifically with money and possessions. While financial assets, money, property, and possessions can be components of wealth, we need to look at wealth more broadly.

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Today, we feel pressure to do more in less time—to be more efficient. Not long ago, "snail mail" was an adequate response time in business. Now those without 24/7 e-mail are handicapped. We seem to be more uptight and stressed out with daily life. The nuclear family is disintegrating, and single-parent families are growing in number.

The extended family is scattered, and the “normal” family is dysfunctional. Families are just “too busy” to communicate their vision and values. Our families have lost their heritage, and the legacy we once received from our forefathers is becoming extinguished. What can you do to stop this trend?

By redefining wealth in three dimensions, you can better negotiate life’s transitions. Financial wealth is good, for the right purpose. Money keeps the economy going. But wealth has relatively little to do with money. Those who feel that money, the creation and accumulation of it, is life’s ultimate reward have created the impossible dream. When John Paul Getty was asked how much money is enough, he replied, “Just a little more.” We have a huge vacuum that we strive to fill with possessions, relationships, titles, and degrees.

A healthy perspective of wealth encompasses more than just the financial dimension. Granted, finances can affect the quality of your whole life. But without an appreciation for the big picture and an all-encompassing perspective of your wealth, life will be less than what God intended it to be for you.

Wealth has three components: *personal* (who you are), *financial* (what you have), and *social* (how you make a difference). Three-dimensional wealth is similar to water that exists in three distinct states. The chemical composition is the same whether it is steam, water, or ice.

Only when you view your wealth in its three dimensions or states can you transform your life from success to significance. A transfer of capital from your personal financial statement to a charitable trust is not a loss of wealth. It is simply the same asset in a different state. And, a transfer of capital from your personal financial statement to pay for a vacation is not a reduction of your wealth, but a transfer from the money bank to the memory bank. Just as with H₂O, the molecules are not lost in a conversion from one state to another. In fact, a transfer from one dimension of your wealth may enhance your wealth.

Three-dimensional wealth is the total measurement of your life. By synchronizing, shaping, and aligning all three dimensions, your life will be more satisfying, fulfilling, and significant.

More money is not the answer to your personal and family problems. Unless you redefine wealth and rethink now how you provide for your family, your family will be nothing more than a hollow

shell. By embracing a three-dimensional approach, you provide even better for your family. **PE**

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