



Have you ever wondered how a relationship that started out so good got so messy and difficult? In this series from the book of James, *Relationslips*, we'll identify five lies that will ruin relationships. We'll also discover God's truth, that when believed and applied to our lives, will set us free and bring peace and joy to our relationships.

1. Answer the following statement for you personally: True or False? "If I just had more money, then I'd be happier."
2. Read James 5:1-6. This passage starts with a sober warning: *Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you.* The rich being described here less to do with how much money they have in their bank account and more to do with the condition of their heart toward money. According to 1 Timothy 6:10 what is this heart problem?
3. In vv.2-6, James identifies 4 signs of those who love money and material possessions as their god. The first sign that we love money as our god is we have to have more to be happy (vv.2-3). What will happen to all the wealth and material possessions this person has accumulated?
4. Instead of accumulating more, what does 1 Timothy 6:6-9 say is the heart attitude we need to have as Christians?
5. Next, according to v. 4, when we love money as our god, we steal for it. Do you practice honesty and integrity when it comes to money and possessions? If you have been treated unfairly when it comes to money, what encouragement does this verse give?
6. According to v.5 when we love money as our god, we waste it. Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19. Are you using money to indulge your flesh or to invest in God's kingdom by doing good? Does your bank account reflect this?
7. When we love money as our god, we kill for it (v.6). Probably none of us has ever directly killed anyone over money, but we kill our relationships with others through
 - Financial secrecy – hiding money you spend so others won't find out.
 - Financial infidelity – using to cheat on your spouse or do something immoral.
 - Financial violence – using money to manipulate and hurt others.
8. Do love money as your god, or do you love God with your money? How did Jesus, the righteous one, respond when Judas betrayed him for 30 pieces of silver and he went to the cross to die for our sins? If you are guilty of loving money and material possessions as your god, will you confess your sins and ask God to give you a heart of love for him only?