

The Root of All Evil?

We have all heard the expression "money is the root of all evil", but, is it really? Money allows me to buy food; it allows me to put a roof over my wife and kids' heads. It allows me to obtain medication when we are sick. No, I really don't think that money is the real problem.

I bring this up because I have heard parents say that they have concerns about teaching their children "too much" about money. In other words, they do not want it to be too much of a focus in their children's lives. I understand the fear of making money too much of a central theme in a child's life and I am certainly empathetic to that position. Consider this, however, parents will spend enormous amounts of resources teaching their kids all kinds of sports. This, in spite of the fact that less than 1% of those kids will ever do anything more than use sports as a recreational activity. And those who do go on to professional careers in sports will be faced with dealing with vast amounts of money.

Let's be honest here, there is no getting away from money. We can either teach our children how to manage it responsibly or hope that they "pick it up along the way" as adults. Personally, I am not crazy about just hoping that my kids learn about money, no more than I am just hopeful that they will learn about good nutrition. Think about it like this: we do not want our children over-obsessing about food, but does that mean that we should not teach them about good nutrition?

I believe one of the reasons we that have fears about the topic of money is because so many of us do not fully understand it ourselves. How many of us completely understand the kreb cycle and it's function in our cardiovascular health? Probably not that many of us, but I'll bet that we will still teach our children about the importance of exercise. The point is that money will be a part of your children's lives, just as will nutrition or exercise. Teaching them principles about saving, giving, and working hard and smart, frankly, just makes good sense! Your children need you to prepare them for life. So, what are you waiting for...prepare them.

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