

Local Church Budget

Financial infidelity. This a term that describes a myriad of actions, activities and attitudes about money hidden from a particular partner. Dr. Bonnie Eaker Weil notes in her book *Financial Infidelity* that such phenomenon is the number one destroyer of relationships. Many couples feel betrayed by the offending partner's actions done in secret. The surprising revelation in reading the book is that many people do not see themselves financially unfaithful to their partners.

The same pervasive attitude is present in the Christian context. In a previous write up we noted that one third of active Seventh-day Adventist members do not return a faithful tithe. One of the main causes for such unfaithfulness was due to plain forgetfulness.

In the Bible the Lord tells us that not returning His tithe and offering is alike to robing God (Malachi 3:8). Such a strong statement may be unpalatable. Nevertheless, Scripture makes a very strong point that some of us are financially unfaithful to God.

Such financial infidelity may have deeper roots than a simple case of forgetfulness. Being faithful financially to our Lord is a predictor of our long-term relationship with Him. Let us remain faithful to Him.