

**RELIGION AND WORK**  
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Source of Data: Rethinking Materialism: Perspectives on the Spiritual Dimension of Economic Behavior.  
1995. Editor: Robert Wuthnow. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans  
Publishing Company.

The following is a direct quote from pages 17 and 18 of the Introduction:

Research shows, in fact, that few people in the U. S. workforce say they have ever learned not to want a lot of money (even though most say greed is wrong). In my (Wuthnow) survey of the U.S. workforce, for instance, the statement "Being greedy is a sin against God" evoked agreement from 71 percent of the respondents (83 percent among church or synagogue members). But, when asked if they had ever been taught that it was wrong to want a lot of money, only 12 percent said they had. Research also suggests that money is seldom the focus of any kind of serious discussion. In my study, for instance, only 19 percent said they were clear about how their parents had made decisions about money (nearly half -- 48 percent -- said they were unclear or unsure). And, as adults, they appear to hide their uncertainties about money as well. Indeed, few ever talk about their money with anyone else, not even with their closest friends. Nor do they seek counsel from financial experts, therapists, or clergy. So they are left with no outside advice other than what they receive from the mass media: buy this, buy that, spend more, focus on brands and prices, not whether to buy something at all.