

# NEEDS AND WANTS CATEGORIES

## How to Tell the Difference Between Discretionary and Non-Discretionary Money.

A NEED is something that you must have. A WANT is something that would be nice to have, but is not absolutely necessary for your life. In analyzing NEED and WANT categories, a couple (or a single person) can decide budget priorities. If an item is clearly identified as a NEED (such as item #53) then obviously the money which must go for that needed expense must not be spent on something that is not an essential to existence—a WANT (such as #37 or #78). Items #88 or #35 might clearly be WANTS to one person, but NEEDS to another, depending on circumstances. Identify each item below with a W or an N (each partner should do one separately), then take your two lists and compare and HARMONIZE your lists and make one list which you both agree upon as the basis for expenditure of family resources. Other categories can be added if you want.

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|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| __ 1. Accident insurance     | __ 40. FM radio in car        | __ 79. Second oven            |
| __ 2. Addition to house      | __ 41. Food                   | __ 80. Second TV              |
| __ 3. Air conditioning       | __ 42. Freezer                | __ 81. Self improvement class |
| __ 4. New car                | __ 43. Additional furniture   | __ 82. Sewing eqpt/material   |
| __ 5. Car insurance          | __ 44. Garden supplies        | __ 83. Silver table service   |
| __ 6. Backpacking eqpt.      | __ 45. Gas, lights, water     | __ 84. Skiing equipment       |
| __ 7. Beauty treatments      | __ 46. Gasoline               | __ 85. Sporting event tickets |
| __ 8. Bicycle                | __ 47. Gifts (weddings etc.)  | __ 86. CD player              |
| __ 9. Boat                   | __ 48. Movies                 | __ 87. Table ornaments        |
| __ 10. Book club             | __ 49. Haircut                | __ 88. Tape recorder          |
| __ 11. Books                 | __ 50. Hand power tools       | __ 89. Telephone              |
| __ 12. Camera eqpt.          | __ 51. Having hair done       | __ 90. Television             |
| __ 13. Camping gear          | __ 52. Home repairs costs     | __ 91. Toys for children      |
| __ 14. Candy                 | __ 53. House payment/rent     | __ 92. Vacation expenses      |
| __ 15. Carpets               | __ 54. Home re-decorating     | __ 93. Vacuum cleaner         |
| __ 16. Charity               | __ 55. Ice cream              | __ 94. Veterinarian fees      |
| __ 17. Checking Account      | __ 56. Life insurance         | __ 95. Weekend vacations      |
| __ 18. Babysitting           | __ 57. Kids' allowance        | __ 96. Weight loss program    |
| __ 19. Christmas cards       | __ 58. Kitchen carpet         | __ 97. Yard equipment         |
| __ 20. Christmas tree, gifts | __ 59. Knick knacks           | __ 98. Investments            |
| __ 21. Church contributions  | __ 60. Magazine subscription  | __ 99. _____                  |
| __ 22. Cleaning clothes      | __ 61. Marriage counselor     | __ 100. _____                 |
| __ 23. Clock radio           | __ 62. Medical treatment      | __ 101. _____                 |
| __ 24. Color TV              | __ 63. Medicine               | __ 102. _____                 |
| __ 25. Contact lenses        | __ 64. Men's toiletries       | __ 103. _____                 |
| __ 26. Cosmetics             | __ 65. Recreation property    | __ 104. _____                 |
| __ 27. Church related costs  | __ 66. VCR player             | __ 105. _____                 |
| __ 28. Community svc. costs  | __ 67. Piano                  |                               |
| __ 29. Dental care           | __ 68. Musical instruments    |                               |
| __ 30. Dinner out            | __ 69. Newspaper              |                               |
| __ 31. Education costs       | __ 70. Paint for house        |                               |
| __ 32. Electric can opener   | __ 71. Pet                    |                               |
| __ 33. Electric meat slicer  | __ 72. Postage                |                               |
| __ 34. Electric shop eqpt.   | __ 73. Additional real estate |                               |
| __ 35. Extension telephone   | __ 74. Tape/CD/Video clubs    |                               |
| __ 36. Extra shoes           | __ 75. Tapes/CDs              |                               |
| __ 37. Gym membership        | __ 76. Recreational vehicles  |                               |
| __ 38. Fancy china           | __ 77. Savings account        |                               |
| __ 39. Film                  | __ 78. Second car             |                               |

## **FOR LOVE AND MONEY: AN AGE-OLD BATTLEGROUND**

**by Dr. Brent Barlow**

Like to liven up the evening a little? Then ask your spouse to review some of the following questions about money and how you handle it as a couple. Spouses are encouraged to answer the following questions alone. Compare answers and talk about them. Here are the questions:

1. If you received \$5,000 tax-free, what would you do with it?
2. If you had to make a major cut in your current spending, what area would you cut first?
3. Do you agree (A) or disagree (D) with the following statements?
  - I'm basically too tight with money.
  - My spouse is basically too tight with money.
  - Equality in family financial decisions is important to me.
  - I feel good about the way financial decisions are made in our family.
  - Sometimes I buy things I don't need just because they are on sale.
  - I believe in enjoying today and letting tomorrow worry about itself.
4. I'd like to see us spend less money on \_\_\_\_\_.
5. I'd like to see us spend more money on \_\_\_\_\_.
6. What money problem is the most frequent cause of argument for us?
7. What is the most sensible thing we have done with money since we were married?  
The most foolish?
8. What are our dollar figures for the following items?  
Family take-home income \$\_\_\_\_\_.  
Rent or mortgage payment \$\_\_\_\_\_.  
Money spent on food each month \$\_\_\_\_\_.  
Monthly car payment \$\_\_\_\_\_.
9. Do you feel each of you makes responsible decisions about credit purchases?
10. How satisfied are you with the division of responsibility between the two of you in handling money matters?