

Live Within 43 Your Means

Years ago I heard someone define *stress* as “not having enough resources to meet your needs.”

There was no stress in the Garden of Eden before the Fall of man. Everything Adam and Eve needed was at their disposal. No wonder they lived for hundreds of years and could have lived forever had they not sinned and been driven from the Garden!

If you go into the store to buy groceries and then learn at the checkout line that you’ve bought more than you have money to pay for, it causes stress.

And when you buy so many things on time that you cannot make the payments at the end of the month, it causes stress.

I’ve known families to separate and homes to be torn apart simply because the couple would not live within their means. It’s better to have a one-room house where you can stay warm and dry and have a place to sleep and eat and be able to pay your bills—with some left over—than it is to live in a ten-room house and not have enough money to pay your bills

at the end of the month. As you get financially able, you can always move into a larger house.

When our oldest daughter married, I suggested to her and our new son-in-law that they purchase a used house trailer and live in it until it was paid for, at which time they could sell it and put the equity into a small home; and later, as that was paid for or they had enough equity invested, they could sell it and buy a larger place. They took my advice, bought the used trailer, lived in it for awhile, got it paid for, and then sold it for more than they gave for it and used the money as a down payment on a nice home.

People are a lot happier having less and living within their means than they are having more and living under constant stress with bills that they find it almost impossible to pay on time. Living within your means may require discipline, but you'll be the happier for it.