

What Would You Do?

I've got a little problem and I'm hoping you can help me out. You see, my kitchen has green countertops. It's really not a bad shade of green. It's just not a color we would have picked if we'd had a choice. Oh, and the countertops are laminate. It's in good shape and does the job, but it does look kind of dated.

Of course the backsplash is a problem, too. It's tiled, which is nice, but some of the tiles have some green in them. To go with the green countertops. And they do go quite nicely. It's just that, well, there's that green again. I guess green's not really my color. At least not in the kitchen.

Can't forget about the cabinets. They're really not bad cabinets. I mean we're happy with the style and color and all. But they are 15 years old and showing their age here and there. It really would be nice to get them spruced up.

Along with the family room cabinets, of course. You see, the kitchen's open to the family room, and the family room has these nice built-in cabinets that match the cabinets in the kitchen and, well, you really can't do one without doing the other.

Say, did I mention the floor? No? Well, I should have. Since the day we bought the house five years ago we've been saying that we needed to do something about the floor. First off, the tiles are white. Well, not pure white, and there is some veining in them. But white enough that if you even think the word "dirt" it shows up on the floor. And the color doesn't go all the way through and there are these chips here and there that stick out because they show the dark grey that's underneath the white. At least they stick out to us, anyway...

So we've decided that maybe it's time to stop talking and start doing. Except that to do all of that would cost a bunch. A big bunch.

And here we sit, thinking and talking about whether or not it makes sense to spend that much money. After all, it's really just a kitchen we're talking about. Doing all this stuff won't make the food taste any better. It won't make it any easier to get the whole family to sit down to dinner at the same time. It's not like people walk in and say "Ugh! How can they live like this?!" But still, it would be nice...

And what about God? Does He care whether or not we have a nicer kitchen? There are millions of people in the world that would love to have something even half as good as what we have. Maybe we should be using that money to help some of them. On the other hand, God wants us to enjoy life, doesn't He? Scripture is full of people who served God and also enjoyed the material things God puts in this world. A nicer kitchen doesn't seem like so much...

I suppose we could do some of the work ourselves and give the money we save to God. But then that would reduce the time we could give to God. Is that a fair trade-off? Maybe we could give a tenth of the cost to God...you know, sort of like a tithe. Or maybe we should give an equal amount?

It's all so confusing! Maybe we should just move...

So tell me... what would you do? Feel free to share your thoughts with me by sending an email to BudgetGuy@SHPC.org or sending me a note at the church.

I'm here to help you improve your financial life. It's free and confidential. Just call the Budget Guy, Allen Gunter, at 292-4035, or send an email to BudgetGuy@shpc.org. For a wonderful look at what the Bible says about money, check out the Crown Financial Ministries Small Study Groups - call Margaret Fetty at 288-9034 for more information.