

QUIZ: What's Your Financial Style?

PORTICO PLAN MEMBERS



Living smart means taking steps to manage your financial life. But do you?

Take this quiz to see how you engage financially and what you can do about it.

Circle your choice

- | | | | |
|--|-----|----|--------|
| 1. On most days, I feel confident about my financial life. | Yes | No | Unsure |
| 2. I have a budget that guides my saving, spending, and giving. | Yes | No | Unsure |
| 3. I know the amount of debt I currently have. | Yes | No | Unsure |
| 4. I'm contributing to my retirement out of my paycheck in addition to any contributions from my employer. | Yes | No | Unsure |
| 5. I could handle a large unexpected expense (such as a car repair or emergency room visit) and still cover my daily expenses. | Yes | No | Unsure |
| 6. I'm saving regularly for other long-term savings goals such as purchasing a house, a child's education, etc. | Yes | No | Unsure |
| 7. I know what types of funds my retirement account(s) is invested in. | Yes | No | Unsure |
| 8. I have a good idea how much money I'll need to retire. | Yes | No | Unsure |
| 9. I've created a health care directive, a financial directive, and a will or estate plan to help my loved ones carry out my wishes. | Yes | No | Unsure |
| 10. I'm financially generous with my congregation and other charitable organizations. | Yes | No | Unsure |

What's Your Financial Style?

Drumroll...

Now, tally your responses. Remember, this quiz tests how you're engaging financially — not how much money you do or don't have. Accordingly, you get the most points if you're engaged, fewer points if you're not engaged, and even fewer points if you're unsure.

- **Yes** = 3 points
- **No** = 1 point
- **Unsure** = 0 points

Score _____

22-30 points

Wow, you sound *financially confident*, able to dig in, learn what you don't know, and address the financial issues in your life.

15-21 points

Okay, you seem *financially aware*, clear on what you have and haven't done, but not as engaged as you could be. Invest a bit more time to create stronger financial habits.

0-14 points

Hmm, you appear to be *financially disconnected*, not paying attention to the details. Invest more time to educate yourself about where you are financially and what you still need to do.

Insights and Tips

Each quiz question represents an important part of living well financially. Here, we offer information and a handy tip.

1. *On most days, I feel confident about my financial life.*

Nearly three out of four adults feel stressed about money at least some of the time. Life is full of things we can't control. But we can live confidently when we live with intention, creating good habits, and managing the unexpected. Identify one or two areas of your financial life you want to focus on this year — use these tips as a guide to what next steps you might need to take.

2. *I have a budget that guides my saving, spending, and giving.*

Just 32% of Americans prepare a detailed monthly budget. While budgeting can feel tedious, it ensures that your money is going where you want it to go. Simplify the process with a budgeting app like *Mint*.

3. *I know the amount of debt I currently have.*

Last year, the average U.S. household with debt owed \$134,642. While not all debt is bad — paying diligently on auto, student, and home loans can boost your credit score. It's important to tackle large credit card debt or student loan debt early so it doesn't interfere with your longer-term financial goals. Not sure where to start? Pay down the loan with the highest interest rate.

4. *I'm contributing to my retirement out of my paycheck in addition to any contributions from an employer.*

Fidelity recommends contributing 15% of earnings to a retirement account between your and your employer's contributions. Your individual contributions are important. Start with 1% and increase your contribution each year. It'll have less of an effect on your paycheck than you think.

5. *I could handle a large unexpected expense (such as a car repair or emergency room visit) and still cover my daily expenses.*

Only 38% of Americans have enough saved to pay an unexpected expense – such as a \$1,000 ER visit or \$500 car repair. It's easier to plan ahead than dig yourself out of debt. Try to maintain \$1,000 in an emergency savings account to ease the stress of the unexpected.

6. *I'm saving regularly for other long-term goals such as a child's education, purchasing a house, etc.*

Only 51% of Americans with children under 18 are saving for college. While debt repayment, emergency savings, and retirement are critical, putting aside even a small percentage of your budget for other long-term goals can help you feel like you're making progress. Not sure how to balance all of your savings priorities? Ask a financial planner.

7. *I know what types of funds my retirement account(s) is invested in.*

Not sure where your money is invested? You're not alone. Review your quarterly statement by referring to the Retirement Account Summary section of myPortico. Wondering if your money's in the best funds for you? Use Portico's Retirement Planning Tool.

8. *I have a good idea of how much money I'll need to retire.*

To be financially ready to retire by age 67, aim to have 10 times your final salary saved at retirement. Starting early is the best way to harness the power of compounding, but it's never too late. Make your retirement contribution a percent, not a flat dollar amount, so that as your paycheck increases, so do your savings.

9. *I've created a health care directive, a financial directive, and a will or estate plan to help my loved ones carry out my wishes.*

Over two-thirds of adults don't have a health care advance directive or living will and 64% don't have a will. Taking these steps is a gift to your loved ones should you be physically unable to make decisions for yourself or pass away. Create a health care directive, a financial directive, and a will or estate plan — and make them legally binding.

10. *I'm financially generous with my congregation and other charitable organizations.*

At least one out of five American Christians gives nothing to church, para-church, or nonreligious charities. Lutherans, on average, give 1.7% of their household income. When your budget is tight, giving can often be the first thing to go. Try giving first rather than waiting to see what's left over. Even if you aren't able to tithe, start somewhere and grow.

Need a Helping Hand?

FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR PORTICO PLAN MEMBERS

As your partner, Portico is here to help you engage financially, whatever your style.

- To increase your financial knowledge, attend one of our in-person seminars or webinars listed on the myPortico Events page at PorticoBenefits.org/events.
- To view or change your retirement account funds, increase your pretax contribution, and learn about investing for social impact, visit the Retirement Center on myPortico at PorticoBenefits.org/retirement.
- Questions along the way? Contact the Portico Financial Planner Line at 800.922.4896. As ELCA plan members themselves, they understand the blessings and challenges of ministry. They are unbiased, do not sell products, and are available at no out-of-pocket cost to you.

Turn to Portico-provided financial resources for additional help ...

... creating and implementing a retirement plan

Use Portico's Retirement Planning Tool to see if you're saving enough and get a retirement savings and investment recommendation that you can put into action right away. Find the tool on myPortico under the *Retirement Center* in the *Tools & Information* section.

... managing your credit card or student loan debt

Contact LSS Financial Counseling at 800.528.2926

... investing, saving, or planning for future goals

Call the Portico Financial Planner Line at 800.922.4896