Sherwood Investment Services
Financial Planning & Investment Management
Eric Linger, RIA
Registered Investment Advisor
425-898-8989
Sherwood-Investments.com
elinger@Sherwood-Investments.com
23705 NE 61st Street
Redmond, WA 98053

The Savvy Investor

Why You Should Avoid Bond Funds

The Problem with Bond Funds

Bond funds are convenient and give you a diversified bond portolio. But they are not without their problems:

1. **Risk**

   Bond funds do not provide the certainty of a fixed income. Individual bonds do. While bond fund dividends fluctuate, individual bonds pay you the same amount until maturity.

2. **Uncertainty**

   Bond funds do not have a maturity date as do individual bonds. Therefore, return of principal is not assured.

3. **Expense**

   Bond funds have management fees, individual bonds do not.

4. **Performance**

   While bond prices go up as yields go down, bond fund prices are less predictable. As interest rates go down, the bond fund is buying more expensive bonds yielding less, diluting the bond fund performance.

What Time Magazine Said

For these reasons, most experienced, larger investors buy bonds and not bond funds. But very few people have realized this disparity. Time Magazine ran an article on this issue in the March 2, 1998 issue. Here are some excerpts:

> "The under-appreciated irony of bond funds is that while they invest in bonds they don't behave like them. They're more like a stock."
>
> "Clearly, investors seeking to preserve capital and earn a fixed-income stream for a set period of time have no business flirting with such a beast. They should go for individual bonds."
>
> "Bond-fund risk is just not well understood."

Recommendation

If you want to avoid a possible disaster and avoid being lulled into a false sense of security, I advise investors to avoid bond funds and get individual bonds.

But you'll probably never hear this advice from a stockbroker. The commission on the bond funds is too favorable (high) for the broker.

Your Next Step

Please contact us if you own bond funds and are interested in learning more about alternative, quality investments.