



## ***Christ's Love, Our Calling***

*How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! 1 John 3:1*

***Your offerings are part of your worship of your God.***

How do your offerings reflect your faith? How do they honor your God?

Prayerfully consider...

- your **IDENTITY** as a child of God through Christ and all the spiritual and physical blessings he has given you,
- the **PRIORITY** God has in your life as you manage his gifts for his glory and purposes,
- your monetary offerings as an investment in our God-given **MISSION** which brings eternal dividends as it touches treasured souls,
- what proportion of all God has entrusted to you that you intend to set as a regular offering to him,

***Guidelines for Giving – Priority, Personal, Proportional . . .***

- **Priority** – firstfruit giving = *giving that is of your first and best*

*Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.*

King Solomon (Proverbs 3:9-10)

***Suggestion:*** Set aside what you will return to the Lord to honor him before paying bills or making purchases and determine your lifestyle with what is remaining.

- **Personal** – freewill giving = *giving that is between you and God*

*Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

Apostle Paul (2 Corinthians 9:7)

***Suggestion:*** Sit down and recount the blessings God has given you. Then as a joyful response decide how that will impact what you give. Write down what that means for each week (for comparisons also look at what it means per day and per year). Church envelopes are useful to make it easier to keep on track with your decision.

- **Proportional** – percentage giving = *giving that everyone can do – no matter the age or income – based on the size of your income*

*Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income . . .*

Apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 16:1-2)

**Suggestion:** At the time you review your finances (a raise, taxes, end of the year, etc.), look at your salary and benefits and lock in a percentage to return as a firstfruit thank offering to the Lord.

**Consider the tithe (10% of income) as a stepping stone percentage because it . . .**

- Matches the biblical example of giving from early on (Abraham, Jacob)
- Becomes a benchmark for people of grace to go beyond the Old Testament law requirements
- Brings a new level of personal joy, direction, and blessing (just ask someone who is doing it)

*Return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD Almighty . . . Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.*

(Malachi 3:7,10)

**. . . and then become . . .**

- **Generous**

*<sup>6</sup>Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously . . . <sup>10</sup>Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.*

Apostle Paul (2 Corinthians 9:6,10)

**Suggestion:** Don't let your giving be mechanical but let your heart lead you to a life of generosity. Look for opportunities to share what you have with others who are in need (2 Corinthians 8-9), ministries that could greatly benefit, or just saying thanks to God (e.g. the widows mite). An extra way to extend this is with your will, estate plan, or charitable giving.

## Christ's Love, Our Calling

### Worksheet for Offerings to Honor the Lord

*"I have loved you," says the LORD . . . A son honors his father, and a servant his master.  
If I am a father, where is the honor due me? Malachi 1:2,6*

#### Written Plan for Offerings

The Lord gave us of his best—not only our world and our very existence, but our rescue and care. He gave his one and only Son and lavished us with love by calling us his children. As his children we are blessed by him, represent him, and become heirs of eternal glory with him. That is your greatest relationship and your precious identity.

#### Seven Step Worksheet (see other side of page for proportionate giving chart)

1. My/our present income is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (per week / month / year).
2. A 10% benchmark would be \$ \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Presently I/we give \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (which equals \_\_\_\_% of my/our income).
4. I/we are willing to sacrifice \_\_\_\_\_ (activity /possession) to keep our priority on Christ.
5. In view of how God treasures us, I/we will increase our offering by \_\_\_\_% (1%, 3%, 5%, 7% etc.) of my/our income to carry out gospel ministry.
6. This will amount to \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per week for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per year that I/we will give through my congregational offerings to honor the Lord.
7. I/we will consider *additional* special gifts available for gospel ministry and set aside \_\_\_\_\_ (amount or project) for \_\_\_\_\_ (special focus).

..... **cut off and return bottom portion in envelope** .....

**Commitment Plan for** \_\_\_\_\_ (time period).

(A firm, yet non-binding, intention with the help of God's grace):

1. **With God's blessing, I/we will honor the Lord with and yearly offering of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ (date) to \_\_\_\_\_ (date).**
2. **That represents \$ \_\_\_\_\_ each week or \$ \_\_\_\_\_ each month**
3. **In addition to our regular offering I/we intend to set aside \_\_\_\_\_ (amount) for \_\_\_\_\_ (special focus, need, or opportunity).**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

To grasp the reality of your offerings in proportion to the financial resources God has given (and what you spend elsewhere), find your salary on the following chart (you may have to add figures together). Then calculate what that means per week (divide by 51) and then what it means per day (divide by 365).

### Proportionate Giving Chart

Annual income	2%	3%	5%	6%	10%	11%	14%	15%
\$10,000	\$200	\$300	\$500	\$600	\$1,000	\$1,100	\$1,400	\$1,500
\$20,000	\$400	\$600	\$1,000	\$1,200	\$2,000	\$2,200	\$2,800	\$3,000
\$30,000	\$600	\$900	\$1,500	\$1,800	\$3,000	\$3,300	\$4,200	\$4,500
\$40,000	\$800	\$1,200	\$2,000	\$2,400	\$4,000	\$4,400	\$5,600	\$6,000
\$50,000	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$5,500	\$7,000	\$7,500
\$60,000	\$1,200	\$1,800	\$3,000	\$3,600	\$6,000	\$6,600	\$8,400	\$9,000
\$70,000	\$1,400	\$2,100	\$3,500	\$4,200	\$7,000	\$7,700	\$9,800	\$10,500
\$80,000	\$1,600	\$2,400	\$4,000	\$4,800	\$8,000	\$8,800	\$11,200	\$12,000
\$90,000	\$1,800	\$2,700	\$4,500	\$5,400	\$9,000	\$9,900	\$12,600	\$13,500
\$100,000	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$6,000	\$10,000	\$11,000	\$14,000	\$15,000