

# Fundamentals Of The Church

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## Worshiping In Giving

(I Co 16:1-2)

### INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning
  - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons on "Fundamentals Of The Church"
  - a. Last week we examined the importance of partaking the Lord's Supper.
  - b. Today we are going to look at the importance of "giving."
3. The question is not whether or not we are to give...God made the sun—it gives. God made the moon—it gives. God made the stars—they give. God made the air—it gives. God made the sea—it gives. God made the flowers—they give. God made the birds—they give. God made the beasts—they give. God made the plants—they give. God made man he ... I think this is the “only” act of worship everyone is in agreement on in the world of “Christendom.” When I give money to someone for a service or for a bill that shows there is a commitment between me and the other involved. Therefore Christians have the opportunity to show their love and commitment to the Lord in giving to Him.

### I. God's Ownership Is Comprehensive (I Ch 29:14)

- A. Heaven and earth are His
  1. **Gn 14:19** "And he blessed him and said: “Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth”
    - i. Thus everything "belongs" to God.
      - a. **Gn 1:1** "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."
- B. Every animal is His
  1. **Ps 50:10-12** "For every beast of the forest is Mine, And the cattle on a thousand hills. 11 I know all the birds of the mountains, And the wild beasts of the field are Mine. 12 “If I were hungry, I would not tell you; For the world is Mine, and all its fullness."
- C. All silver and gold are His
  1. **Hg 2:8** "The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,' says the LORD of hosts."
- D. By right all souls are His
  1. **Ek 18:4** "Behold, all souls are Mine; The soul of the father As well as the soul of the son is Mine; The soul who sins shall die."
- E. By purchase all Xians are His
  1. **I Co 6:19-20** "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

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## II. All Life Is A Stewardship

- A. Christians are stewards, trustees, or caretakers
  - 1. **Lk 16:1-13 (READ)**
- B. We must therefore be faithful stewards
  - 1. **I Pt 4:10** "As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."
  - 2. **I Co 4:1-2** "Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful."
    - i. God demands the "first fruit offerings"
      - a. **Lv 23:9-14; Mt 6:33**
    - ii. Do you give first to God out of that which you prosper?
- C. Thus we will not be wasters of goods
  - 1. **Lk 16:1** "He also said to His disciples: "There was a certain rich man who had a steward, and an accusation was brought to him that this man was wasting his goods."
- D. Because we will give an account of our stewardship
  - 1. **Ro 14:12** "So then each of us shall give account of himself to God."

## III. God's Love Demands Our Fellowship

- A. In love
  - 1. **I Pt 1:22** "Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart"
  - 2. **Co 2:2** "that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ"
- B. In suffering
  - 1. **Ga 6:2** "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."
- C. In service
  - 1. **Ga 2:9-10** "and when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. 10 They desired only that we should remember the poor, the very thing which I also was eager to do."
  - 2. **Ph 1:3-5** "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, 5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now"
- D. In finances
  - 1. Everyone is to give as they prosper.
    - i. **I Co 16:2** "On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come."

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2. Everyone is to give according to their ability.
  - i. **II Co 8:12** "For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have."
  - ii. Ability is based on personal responsibility.
    - a. **Mt 25:41-44** "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: 42 for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; 43 I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' 44 "Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?'"
3. Everyone is to give equally.
  - i. **II Co 8:13-15** "For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened; 14 but by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may supply their lack, that their abundance also may supply your lack—that there may be equality. 15 As it is written, "He who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack.""
  - ii. Equally is not everyone giving the same amount of money but that everyone gives according to ability equally.

## IV. Love Must Be The Bases Of Giving (II Co 8:1-24)

- A. First we must realize we will either love God or Satan
  1. **Lk 16:13-15** "'No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.'" 14 Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, also heard all these things, and they derided Him. 15 And He said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God."
- B. Our giving is proof of our sincerity, of our love
  1. **II Co 8:8-9** "I speak not by commandment, but I am testing the sincerity of your love by the diligence of others. 9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich."
- C. Our giving is voluntary, not something that is forced on others
  1. **II Co 8:12** "For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have."

## V. The Pattern Of New Testament Giving

- A. Regularly – 1st day of the week
  1. **I Co 16:2**
- B. Systematically – Lay by in store
  1. **I Co 16:2**

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- C. Individually – Each of you
  - 1. **I Co 16:2**
- D. Liberally
  - 1. **II Co 8:1-4**
- E. Purposefully – Not haphazardly
  - 1. **II Co 8:12-15**
- F. Cheerfully – God loves a cheerful giver
  - 1. **II Co 9:7**
- G. Willingly – Whatever his gift may be
  - 1. **II Co 8:12**

## CONCLUSION

- 1. All that we have is from God thus we cannot believe that it is ours, **I Ch 29:14**.
  - a. Many have fallen because they just would not give what God gave and that means to the best of our ability.
  - b. We are not told how much to give but we can no one thing God demanded a tithe from the poorest of poor under the old law and now we are under a new law with better promises and blessings, **He 8:6**.
    - i. Show your love and devotion to your God and do not let money keep you from heaven, **I Ti 6:10**.
- 2. If you struggle with this stop now and let us help. Go to your Father in prayer and if you are sincere He can help you, but you must want to be helped. Do not fall away because of this. Do what's right now and don't delay.
  - a. If you need to become a Christian or would like to study the bible to see what God says on the plan of salvation please let me or someone here know and they will be more than willing to assist you. If you want to put on Christ now is the time come forward as we stand...
  - b. God's Plan of Salvation
    - i. Hear/Study God's Word **Ro 10:17**
    - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
    - iii. Repent **Ac 17:30**
    - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Ro 10-9-10**
    - v. Be Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
    - vi. "Strive" For Perfect Living **I Jn 1:7**