



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The Grace of Giving

1 Corinthians 16:1-4

Part 4

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth...but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven...**For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

Matthew 6:19-21



But seek first the kingdom of
God and His righteousness, and
all these things will be added
unto you.

Matthew 6:33


FIRST THINGS FIRST




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- **Give with Purpose.** Principle 1: God wants to use you to meet the needs of His kingdom *“collection for the saints”*
- **Give Consistently.** Principle 2: God wants to give in a systematic manner. *“upon the first day of the week”*
- **Give Personally.** Principle 3: God wants you (every one of you) to give. *“let every one of you”*
- **Give Through the Church.** Principle 4: God wants you to give through your local church. *“lay by him in store”*

In the New Testament, generosity didn't flow around the church; it flowed through the church.



God designed the church to be the distribution center for His generosity!



Why is it so beneficial that the church would be the primary distribution center for God's generosity?

- 1. It multiplies impact.** *Individually we make a difference – together we make an impact.*
- 2. It keeps the mission first.** *The church keeps our giving aimed at what lasts.*
- 3. It builds unity.** *Different people. Different backgrounds. One mission.*
- 4. It ensures wise stewardship.** *When generosity is guided, it goes further.*
- 5. It forms you spiritually.** *God uses the church not just to distribute generosity – but to develop it in you.*

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- **Give Proportionately.** Principle 5: God wants you to give in proportion to what you have been given. *“as God has prospered him”*

Principle 6:

God wants His resources to be handled ethically and responsibly.

- How should the church handle my giving? With integrity & accountability.
Give with Confidence

Healthy stewardship in our lives and
in our churches requires both
generosity and integrity.

*Paul: Don't handle this casually! Choose
trusted people. Establish accountability.
Protect the testimony of the church!*



Two Precautions (vs.3)

- 1) Establish an ethical process.
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- Intentional concern for the reputation and care of the finances
- Congregational approval of those who handled this money - *“you shall approve”*
- Precise accountability in more than a single individual - *“them will I send”*

At Harvest:

- **Specific policies for our finances; established safeguards**
- **Multiple people handling offerings**
- **Financial accountability on multiple levels; annual external financial audit of entire ministry**
- **Transparent processes**

Two Precautions (vs.3)

1) Establish an ethical process.

2) Approve ethical people.

- Choose trustworthy & godly men to handle finances (*Acts 6:1-4*).
- Trustworthy reputations “*honest report*”
- Spiritually sensitive “*full of the Holy Ghost*”
- Gifted with practical, Godly wisdom “*and wisdom*”
- Under the authority of the congregation “*whom we may appoint over this business*”



**Character qualifies people to
handle Kingdom resources.**

Principle 7:

God wants to use you to meet the needs of His kingdom work. Generosity flows from priority!

➤ **Why should I give?**

“as I have given order to the churches”

Give Obediently.

Give Passionately.

Give Generously.



FIRST THINGS FIRST

*Put God first. Give God first.
Trust God first. See God work!*



Principles of Grace-giving

- **How should I give?** Give with Purpose. *“the collection of the saints”*
- **When should I give?** Give Consistently. *“upon the first day of the week”*
- **Who should give?** Give Personally. *“Let every one of you”*
- **Where should I give?** Give through the church. *“lay by him in store”*
- **How much should I give?** Give Proportionately. *“as God has prospered Him”*
- **How should the church handle the offerings?** Give with Confidence. (vs. 3)
- **Why should I give?** Give Obediently. Give Passionately. Give Generously. *“as I have given order to churches”*