

### ***Why Give to the Church?***

Why do you think money is such a touchy subject in church discussions & teaching?

What are some reasons professing Christians and perhaps even church members don't give?

Dr. Whitney gives the following **biblical reasons Christians should give to their local church:**

1. Giving shows love and gratitude for Jesus Christ.
2. The church is the only organization Jesus said He would build.
3. Giving helps fulfill the Great Commission.
4. Giving is a form of worship.
5. Giving is a form of fellowship (κοινωνία).
6. Giving testifies of a changed life and concern for others.
7. Giving supports the ministry that supports us.
8. We should use God's money for God's work and God's glory.
9. God promises generous blessings for generous givers.

Which of the above is most compelling for you?

Read 2 Cor 8:1-9. What implications did Paul see in the example of the Macedonian churches for other believers? How did he relate generous giving to love for Christ?

Why is 2 Cor 8:9 such a compelling verse with regard to giving to Christ's church?

How does Matt 16:18 support prioritizing church giving over parachurch giving?

How is giving a form of worship? How do Old Testament sacrifices inform our understanding?

How do monetary expenditures show what a person truly values? (*cf.* Matt 6:21)

Read Acts 4:32-37. How does Acts 4:32 move us toward fellowship but not communism?

How are we giving to each other?

T or F? Giving to the church "strengthens fellowship in the sense that it weakens selfishness."

"How could anyone want no part of giving to the church and still feel a part of the church?"

How is God's reciprocity relevant regardless of whether you believe the "tithe" is binding on believers today? (*cf.* 2 Cor 9:6-8)

What are the implications for your giving from Mark 12:41-44?

For some **practical application** regarding how to give, Dr. Whitney suggests you give systematically, proportionally, and sacrificially to your church. What are your thoughts on each of these? What other practical advice might you offer to each other?

How might we relate the following quote to church giving? "What kind of church would my church be, if every member was just like me?" ~J.D. Sumner & the Stamps Quartet

**Quote to Ponder:** "When we do give, we become living testimonies that God is worthy of worship and that His church is worthy of support." ~Dr. Whitney