What Does The Bible Say About Giving?

Greg Kline · 1 Timothy 5:3–16

INTRODUCTION

- If any believing woman has relatives who are widows, let her care for them. Let the church not be burdened, so that it may care for those who are truly widows.
- We have individual obligations like that in 1 Timothy 5 to our family members, and that the church likewise has obligations like those to those who are widows indeed.
- There are two distinct areas of giving, which, by the way, implies that we should be giving in two distinct areas as well.

1 How the Church Is to Use Its Funds

Romans 15:25–26; Ephesians 4:11–16; Philippians 4:14–17

- Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem.
- Church benevolence is for those who are in need.
- The church's role is in edification, and that would include putting money behind that effort.
- When we supply support for evangelists across other continents and even in other states in the United States of America, that we are gaining fruit from that account.

2 Giving as an Individual

Galatians 6:10; 1 Timothy 5:8

- So then as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.
- It is enough to say, I have an obligation to help those in the world.
- If his plan is to be carried out, I, as a child of God, have to step up and be willing to help.
- So we see an example there that we are to help everybody. But that does not mean that the church is to help everybody.

3 Give on the First Day of Every Week

1 Corinthians 16:1–3; Acts 20:7

- We have a heavy obligation and a heavy responsibility to be a part of the Lord's work in a very real financial and otherwise way.
- On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.
- In 1 Corinthians chapter 16, the word every is even supplied in the text.

4 Give Cheerfully, Not Grudgingly

2 Corinthians 9:6–7; Matthew 25; Matthew 5:16

- Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.
- Each one must give as he has decided in his heart. Not reluctantly under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
- We need to understand that our giving is not about me, but it's about God.
- If what God has given me is simply his that I am being a steward over, will I not give back cheerfully?

5 Plan Our Giving

2 Corinthians 9:1–5

- Arrange in advance for the gift you promised. So that it may be ready as a willing gift. Not as an exaction.
- Why are we not putting God's work into our budgets?
- There's a difference in taking what God has given me and giving off whatever I have left. That's secondary giving.
- If we're going to put God first, we're going to plan on it from the get-go because it is the Lord's.

6 Give As We Have Prospered

1 John 3:17; Hebrews 8

- But if anyone has this world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?
- If we are children of God, we will give as we have ability and as we have opportunity.
- We don't live under that old covenant. But we live under a better covenant.
- If Jesus has paid the ultimate price for sin, how much more should we be willing to help?

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **What is your ability? Only you can truly identify that. But what is your willingness? That should be at the top of the charts for every child of God.**

MY NOTES