

## Principles for Christian Giving

### I. The Driving Forces of Christian Giving

#### 1. Worship-Driven

- As with all other obedience for the Christian, giving is but one expression of all-of-life worship.  
→ Rom. 12:1-2
- Worshiping God & bringing glory to Him in all that we do should penetrate every area of our life
- When we intentionally give generously, we say to God, *You* are my Lord, not money.

Application:

#### 2. Grace-Driven

- Grace & giving are the overarching themes tied together in 2 Cor. 8-9.  
→ 10 of the 18 uses of “*charis*” used in these 2 chapters (8:1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 16, 19; 9:8, 14, 15)

Application:

#### 3. Relationship-Driven

- That is, giving is based upon one’s relationship with *the Lord* (**2 Cor. 8:5**)
- When our relationship to God is preeminent in our lives, giving to His mission is not a problem
- Generous giving proves the genuineness of a Christian’s love for God (**8:8**)

Application:

#### 4. Love-Driven

- Giving is a demonstration of one’s love for another.  
→ John 3:16; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 5:2, 25
- 2 Cor. 8:24 – giving not only proves one’s confession to Christ, but also their love for His people
- Notice the link of love between **2 Cor. 8:8 & 9**

Application

### II. The Motivations for Christian Giving

#### 1. *God’s Glory*

- 2 Cor. 9:11-15; cf. Rom. 11:36; 1 Cor. 10:31

## 2. *Other's Good*

- Their temporal need → "Supply their need" (2 Cor. 8:14) & "Relief of the saints" (9:12)
- Their eternal need

## 3. *Our Reward*

- Our temporal reward → 2 Cor. 9:11
- Our eternal reward → Matt. 6:19-20; 19:21
  - Luke 12:33; 14:13-14; Matt. 16:27; Rom. 2:6; Eph. 6:8
  - 2 Cor. 9:8 – "giving" is one of the main "good works" we are to abound in! Cf. 1 Tim. 6

Application: in reality, do these really motivate my giving? If not, why? What needs to change?

## III. Our Attitude in Christian Giving

1. Freely (2 Cor. 8:3; 9:7; cf. Matt. 10:8; Exo. 35)
2. Generously (2 Cor. 8:1-3; 9:8)
3. Intentionally (2 Cor. 9:7)
4. Cheerfully & Earnestly (2 Cor. 8:4, 11; 9:7)
5. Systematically/Regularly (2 Cor. 16:1-2)

Application: Do these attitudes characterize my giving? How can I better cultivate them in my life?

## IV. The Amount of Christian Giving

1. Based upon *Income* (2 Cor. 8:3, 12)
2. Based upon *Needs* (2 Cor. 8:14; cf. Acts 4:34-35; 6:1)
3. Based upon *Conviction*

Application: when is the last time I spent time in prayer seeking the Lord as to how much I should give?

## Conclusion

In light of this, we should be ready to sacrifice comfort, be ready to give up luxuries, and be ready to demonstrate our absolute gratefulness for all God has done for us through the cross of Christ.