

THEOLOGY OF GIVING

FOREST GROVE COMMUNITY CHURCH

What is our Theology of Giving? These are key principles to guide us in this important area of discipleship.

1

EVERYTHING BELONGS TO GOD.

We are called to be good stewards of all that has been entrusted to us for His kingdom and for His glory. (*Gen 1:1; 2:15; Psa 24:1; 50:10-11; Matt 25:14-30; Luke 12:42-48; 16:10-13; 2 Cor 8:20-21*)

2

GIVING OUR MONEY IS AN ACT OF WORSHIP.

Sometimes we give to specific needs and we decide how to do that on a case by case basis. This is good. But it is important that we also give with no strings attached – like when we give to our local church. This is an important way to respond to God, which is worship. (*Ex 13:1-16; 1 Sam 1; Mark 12:38-44; Luke 14:3-9; John 12:3*)

3

OUR GIVING REVEALS, ALIGNS AND GROWS OUR HEART ALLEGIANCES.

How we handle our money is a discipleship issue. There are more verses in the NT about money than any other topic - it matters to God (*e.g. Matt 6:19-24; Luke 16:10-13; Acts 4:32-5:10; 1 Tim 6:9-10; 17-19*). 16 of Jesus' 38 parables were about money (*e.g. Matt 25:14-30; Luke 12:42-28*).





4

THE TITHE ISN'T REQUIRED, BUT CAN BE HELPFUL.

The tithe is an old covenant principle that does not directly relate to us as new covenant people, but can be a helpful spiritual discipline. The three references to the tithe in the NT, affirm the intent of the tithe, but help old covenant people see the inadequacy of it and the call to go far beyond because of it being fulfilled in Christ. (*Deut 14:22-23; Prov 3:9-10; Matt 5:17; 23:11-24; Luke 11:37-42; 18:9-14; Heb 7*)

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The new covenant principles that guide our giving call us to give **joyfully, generously, sacrificially** and **proportionally**. (*Matt 6:31-34; Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-37; 2 Cor 8:1-15; 9:1-15*)

6

GIVING STARTS WITH THE LOCAL CHURCH.

Our giving should first be to the local church as God's primary agent of His mission. Then we are also to give generously to kingdom work beyond - addressing poverty, justice, and other needs of the vulnerable. We see this established in many places in the Old Testament as giving to the Levites, the fatherless, the widow and the alien (*e.g. Numbers 18:20-32; Deut. 14:22-29; 2 Chronicles 31:4-5; Nehemiah 10:35-39*), but also affirmed and modelled in the New Testament for our application (*Mark 12:41-44; Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-37; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 8-9; 1 Timothy 5:17-18*).

