

Vast Church, on Giving

Questions about giving, money, and supporting the local church

Overview

We do not approach giving at Vast as an obligation or a 'must,' per se. Rather, we give to the local church as one of many responses to the grace of God that we've received through Christ--"zealous for good works" (Titus 2:11-14). This response of the heart joins with the logic of giving, reflected in Paul's statement within 2 Corinthians 8:9, as he said, "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich." We've been so blessed by God that giving to others, in a variety of means, only makes sense. Moreover, as we respond to the Lord in this manner, we realize what Jesus said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

FAQ's

Question #1- Are we still under the law of the tithe?

Answer: Absolutely not. Tithing, as an institution, originated from the Mosaic Law, before Christ's death and resurrection (i.e., Deut 14, Num 18). The Israelites were compelled to tithe for the support of the Levites making sacrifices on their behalf in the Temple (in Jerusalem). Tithes also supported the Levites, poor, and foreigners in their local towns.

Jesus' death and resurrection fulfilled the Law of Moses, and these brought a new and exceedingly better relationship with God in its place (see Heb 8-10). In Christ, as the People of God, laws like the tithe no longer apply. We have peace with God and no longer fear condemnation (see Rom 8:1-4).

Question #2- Should I give to the local Church?

Answer: Probably :) Rather than asking, "*should I?*" the better question may be, "*do I want to?*" As stated previously, we give to the local Church as one of

many responses to the grace of God. If I don't *want* to give to the local Church, then maybe I need to take a whole different look at what God did for me in Christ.

As a Christian, however, I may not always necessarily give money to the Church when more pressing needs arise. Scripture tells us, for examples, that we should take care of our family members (1 Tim 5:8) and bear one another's burdens (Gal 6:2, Jms 2:15-17). Sometimes events and opportunities arise wherein all or a portion of monies I normally give to the local Church may be redirected to the needs of someone else. (See also "The Good Samaritan," Lk 10:25-37; and "The Least of These," Mt 25:31-46.)

In other words, the People of God want to give, both to their local Body as well as to others whose needs have become overwhelming (e.g., individuals, families).

Question #3- What if my heart doesn't want to give?

Great question! Aside from the grasped-by-grace, get-to-give dynamic previously described, we observe powerful instructions from Jesus in Matthew 6:19-21:

Matthew 6:19-21 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

This rings as true today as it did then--perhaps more.

Here Jesus teaches a revolutionary concept....I cannot take anything with me (i.e., to Heaven), but I *can* invest in a way in which I send it ahead. Moreover, Jesus' statement gives an amazing trick for spiritual fitness: I can lead my heart with my head and hands. If I want to have a greater heart for God, His People, and the World (like God does, in Jn 3:16), then all I have to do is give my treasure! That's pretty cool! (See also 1 Tim 6:6-10, for more perspective and caution.)

Question #4- Why does the Church need my money?

Answer: There are two important corrections within or behind this question:

#1- It's not my money (see James 1:17, and especially Psalm 24:1 "The Earth is the Lord's and everything in it").

#2- Though the *Lord* doesn't need "my" money (see Acts 17:25), Vast Church *does* in order to most fully accomplish its partnership with God, i.e., to make disciples for His glory and the joy of all people.

In general, the money given to the church is used to pay for things like staff, rent, monthly bills, benevolence funds, small group/discipleship tools, missions, and coffee. You *gotta* have good coffee, right?

Question #5- Can I see the budget?

Yes! You *can* always see the budget. Email rob@vastchurch.com and he will gladly share the budget with you--to the penny!

Question #6- I have another question not listed here...

Answer: Great, send us an email and we'd love to engage with you on any question you might have regarding the Bible, finances and how our Church handles finances.

Thank you for letting us serve with you.

-Vast Elder Team and Finance Committee