

# Principles Regarding Offerings

1 Corinthians 16:1-4

## **We Should Give Out of a Desire to See Others Impacted**

- *“Now about the collection for the saints: Do the same as I instructed the Galatian churches.”* (1 Corinthians 16:1)
- **The Jewish Christians were facing great persecution and poverty, and the Gentile Christians’ response was to give generously.**
- *“In every way I’ve shown you that it is necessary to help the weak by laboring like this and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, because he said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”* (Acts 20:35)
- **We are saved into a great family of believers with varying circumstances, and giving is a primary way we demonstrate we love the Lord and others.**

## **We Should Give To the Work of the Lord Through the Church Intentionally**

- *“On the first day of the week, each of you is to set something aside and save in keeping with how he is prospering, so that no collections will need to be made when I come.”* (1 Corinthians 16:2)
- **Sunday had become known as the Lord’s day to gather in worship celebrating on the day Jesus rose from the dead.**
- **Worship is more about giving than receiving: 1) We give our hearts to God in worship, 2) We give our minds to God in worship, 3) We give our voices to God in worship, 4) We give our talents/gifts to God in worship, 5) We give financially to God in worship.**
- **Paul taught us that our giving should be regular, generous, and sometimes sacrificial, rather than occasional, sporadic, sparing.**
- *“The point is this: The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each person should do as he has decided in his heart—not reluctantly or out of compulsion, since God loves a cheerful giver.”* (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)
- *“You can give without worshipping, but you cannot worship without giving...If you love God, you will love God’s Church, and if you love God’s Church, you will give to its work.”* -Dr. Daniel Akin

## **We Should Give to the Church When it Embodies Godly Initiatives**

- *“When I arrive, I will send with letters those you recommend to carry your gift to Jerusalem. 4 If it is suitable for me to go as well, they will travel with me.”* (1 Corinthians 16:3-4)
- **Because we are called to be good stewards of what God entrusts to us, we need to ensure we are giving to a church that is stewarding those gifts for Kingdom work.**
- *“Honor the Lord with your possessions and with the first produce of your entire harvest; 10 then your barns will be completely filled, and your vats will overflow with new wine.”* (Proverbs 3:9-10)
- **Giving to trustworthy and kingdom initiatives through the local church enables you to be a part of God-stories beyond your own.**

## **CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION**

### **Observation:**

- According to verse 1, what was the purpose of the collection Paul was organizing?
- In verse 2, what instructions does Paul give about when and how believers should give?
- What does the phrase “in keeping with how he is prospering” suggest about giving?

### **Understanding**

- Why is it important that giving is motivated by a desire to help others rather than obligation or pressure?
- How does giving reflect our love for God and for other people?
- What does it look like practically to give intentionally and consistently rather than occasionally or impulsively?
- What challenges or barriers can keep people from giving regularly or generously?
- Why is it important to give through trustworthy, God-honoring ministries or churches?
- How would your approach to giving change if you fully viewed it as an act of worship rather than just a financial decision?
- What is one specific step you can take this week to grow in generosity (planning your giving, trusting God more, supporting a need, etc.)?

### **Loving Outward:**

- Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
- Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
- Who are you bringing to church next Sunday?