

Practical Ecclesiology Series: Giving

Pastor Bryan Keith Dugger - 02.19.23



I. Abundance

Key Truth: Shared Sacrifice & Shared Support

II. Commanded

1st Timothy 6:17-19

III. Commended

2nd Corinthians 9:6-10

IV. Good From Giving

Mid-Week Devotion (Take time to pray & respond to the following)

We are accustomed to living with abundance. Our grocery stores are full of selections, our supply of clean water is assumed to be perpetual, and we are drowning in “entertainment.” The abundance is both comforting and crippling. We are truly living in an age of widespread decadence and pervasive depravity.

Abundance fosters a sense of expectation. We start to assume that things will always be this way. In God’s economy, and especially in His church, there is no room for idleness, an attitude of entitlement, or thanklessness. In the context of the local church, giving is ultimately about two important and interrelated principles—shared sacrifice and shared support.

The sharing of sacrifice means that each part of the family takes it upon themselves to contribute to the mission and ministry of the church. Shared support is about resources and effort. The result is that we all give and work together to advance the Gospel and bring glory to God. God has commanded that we be givers. This is not because He will be lacking if we do not. It is because *we will be lacking* of things more important than wealth if we do not.

Are you sharing in the sacrifice and support? If so, is it out of love for Jesus or is it from an erroneous expectation of obligation for God to bless you in response? Do you think God will owe you if you do what He commanded? If you aren’t sharing in the sacrifice and support, why? If you can trust Jesus to save you, can you trust Him to also be your provider? Remember that He never fails to equip His people for all that He has ordained.

Prayerfully consider your actions and attitude in the area of giving to the Lord. Be honest about your fears, needs, frustrations, and hopes. Yes, He already knows. But the act of telling Him bends your will to His. We look to Him as our Provider, Savior, and Friend, because He loves us and He is Lord. Lift prayers of praise to your Lord.