

EPISODE 7: SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Becoming a member at FGC says I am going to support the ministry of the church financially.

- The bad reputation of the church in America- falsely supported by propaganda and "Christian" TV. Most churches are small, don't have a lot of money and pastor's are underpaid as a class.
- Following Jesus involves a lot about money.
- Stewardship is really not about money, it is about our whole lives. But Jesus said where your treasure is, there your heart will also be.
- One author says, "Jesus talked much about money. Sixteen of the thirty-eight parables were concerned with how to handle money and possessions. In the Gospels, an amazing one out of ten verses (288 in all) deal directly with the subject of money.
- The Bible offers 500 verses on prayer, less than 500 verses on faith, but more than 2,000 verses on money and possessions.
- Howard L. Dayton, Jr., Leadership, Vol. 2, no. 2.

Sacrificial giving. A key part of being a christian. Giving to the church and generosity in general.

P. 6 Covenant paragraph on this.

How we spend our money

- We have a financial advisory committee. Deacons and lay people. Board of outside pastors that helps to provide oversight.
- 10% goal for giving money away from our budget, but also special offerings.
- Church planting, refugee relief through a church that is serving in turkey.
- We also have a benevolence fund for helping the poor in our church and community. Recently started a fund to help people with foster care and adoption.
- Where should we give? JD Greer: "To cut to the punchline, I don't believe Christians should give only to the local church, but I do believe that Christians should give first to their local church. The local church is God's "Plan A." It's the vehicle through which we care for the poor, feed the hungry, equip people to minister in the community, and send people out to the nations. When we give to the local church, we give to the mission of God."

Practical issues

- How to give. - Checks/electronic/cash
- Tax deductible - corp in CA. - Website - recurring is helpful