

# TALKING ABOUT MONEY IN THE CHURCH

## JESUS AND THE SCRIPTURES TALK ABOUT MONEY

### ... SO SHOULD PASTORS AND PARISHIONERS

The Scriptures have about 500 verses on faith, more than 500 on prayer, but more than 2,000 references to money, finances and earthly possessions. 40% of Jesus' parables deal with money and possessions. Not to speak about money in the parish is to neglect an important aspect of Biblical teaching.

## A SAMPLING OF SCRIPTURE VERSES ABOUT GIVING

Prov. 3:9-10	First-fruit Giving
Mal. 3:8-10	Tithes and Offerings
Matt. 23:23	Jesus Encourages the Tithe
Mark 12:41-44	A Generous 100% Giver
Luke 6:38	Proper Giving Prompts God to Give
Luke 18:9-14	Self-righteous Giving Condemned
1 Cor. 16:21	Proportionate, Regular Giving
2 Cor. 8:1-5	Generous Giving Beyond Ability
2 Cor. 9:6-7	Willing, Cheerful Giving
2 Cor. 9:10-11	God's Generosity Enables Greater Giving

## PASTORS SHOULD KNOW WHAT EACH MEMBER GIVES

The amount a parishioner contributes is, of course, a personal decision between the giver and God. However, it is beneficial for a pastor to know (and for his parishioners to know he knows) what each member contributes. The information should not be allowed to negatively impact pastoral feelings toward parishioners. Correctly handled, contribution information will enable a pastor to better shepherd his flock regarding financial stewardship. The information should be strictly confidential.

## PARISHIONERS SHOULD KNOW THE GIVING PATTERN OF MEMBERS

The names and amounts donated by parishioners should not be published for public review. They should confidentially be known by a limited number of people - the pastor and financial secretary and possibly the treasurer and stewardship committee chairman. However, contributed amounts should be published in giving categories without names. A sample weekly contribution analysis of a 300 communicant member congregation . . . 98 members gave from \$0 to \$2.00; 105 = \$2.01 to \$5.00; 68 = \$5.01 to \$10; 15 = \$10.01 to \$20.00; 7 = \$20.01 to \$30.00; 5 = \$30.01 to \$50.00; 2 = over \$50.00. The sample should be expanded to show closer amounts. For additional information consult [www.selc.lcms.org](http://www.selc.lcms.org) **Stewardship** - Congregation Helps - Congregation Contribution Reports

## THE IMPORTANCE OF INTENTIONAL STEWARDSHIP EDUCATION

1. Congregations requesting pledges, have 30.2% giving levels higher than those which do not.
2. Those who conduct an annual stewardship emphasis, have 23.3% higher giving levels.
3. Those who ask members to tithe (give 10% of annual income), have 19.6% higher giving levels. (Those, who use all three of the above, have 38.5% higher giving levels than those which do not)

## TWO EFFECTIVE BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS

**“Consecrated Stewards Program” (LCMS)**      **“Consecration Sunday Program” (Herb Miller)**

The 6 week programs are cost effective and have had an average rate of increased annual congregational giving from 10% to 25% (in some cases 40 to 50%). The SELC has trained leaders. Contact [tomas1231@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tomas1231@sbcglobal.net) or call 1-440-582-6140 for additional information.

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