

Introduction

The Bible clearly says giving is a duty. But obedience to God is not legalism; it is the great privilege of God's people, who give in response to his lavish grace towards them.

In Deuteronomy 14, the Lord tells his people that they, of all the people on earth, are chosen as his sons, his holy family, a treasured possession, and special to him. Their privileged-family status will, of course, be reflected in their way of life. In all things, including the area of spending, this family lives not like the pagans, but to the Lord! The chapter unfolds a celebration of giving — which is to be to the Lord, with rejoicing and for the benefit of his people, with generosity, but also for the blessing of the giver, 'that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands'. We give, but he gives far more!

Thus, giving is also an act demonstrating true faith. Tithes were to be the first fruits of the year's harvest, offered thankfully to God even before it was clear if the yield would be good or bad (Deuteronomy 26:2ff). You only give away the first portion of all you have if you really trust God's promise to bless and provide for you. This is the faith that pleases God — it trusts that he is who he says he is, the reward of those who truly seek him (Hebrews 11:6).

Giving to this God is not a burden, but a joy. It is a means of his grace to us, by which we recognise his lavish blessings, return our love to him, and in doing so respond to the needs of his people. Our God is no man's debtor.

How should we give?

Paul gives considerable attention to the administration of money, devoting most of 2 Corinthians 8-9 to the subject (as well as instructions elsewhere).

Churches are instructed that giving is to be organised

- **Properly:** (8:16-24) giving serious thought and effort to stewarding resources for the Lord.
- **Openly:** (8:21) beyond reproach and honourable 'not only in the Lord's sight, but in the sight of man'.
- **Wisely:** (8:22) not naïve about temptations, but entrusting money to those 'tested and found earnest'.
- **Strategically:** (8:18,19,23) funding 'the preaching of the gospel', 'the needs of the saints worldwide', 'for the glory of the Lord himself', 'for the glory of Christ'

Individuals are likewise instructed to give

- **Regularly & efficiently:** (9:5; 1 Corinthians 16:2) in a planned way, not casually. We should not resist giving through the planned giving schemes of our congregation.
- **Willingly:** (9:6-7) as God loves a cheerful giver!
- **Confidently:** (9:8-11) trusting God to supply all our needs as we seek to sow bountifully.

How to give efficiently

Giving to the church can be done in a number of ways:

Weekly collection bag:

Each week an offering is taken during the service.

Standing order:

Giving via a standing order has several advantages, both to you and the church.

Tax efficient giving:

If you pay tax in the UK, we encourage you to consider giving money in a tax effective way, as the size of your gift can be increased without cost to you. This can be done in a number of ways:

- **Gift Aid**

By completing a Gift Aid form, the church is able to reclaim the tax you have already paid on your gift. For every £10 given, we can reclaim £2.80. If you are a higher rate tax payer, there are some advantages to you too.

In order to utilise the gift aid scheme, you have to give your money in a traceable manner e.g. standing order, payment by cheque or by placing your money in an envelope clearly marked with your name and the amount enclosed.

- **Give as you earn**

Many large employers operate a 'Give as you earn' scheme, which allows for the giving of a donation to a charity of your choice before tax is paid. That means that if you nominate to give £10 to the church the actual cost to you is £7.80. If you are interested in giving in this way then speak to your payroll department at work.

- **Charity vouchers**

There are organisations such as the Charities Aid Foundation which allow you to have an account with them, they will reclaim the tax on any money deposited with them, then you give a direct donation to the church using one of their cheques. For more information contact the Charities Aid Foundation.

Details for standing orders

In order to set up a standing order to give to the Church you need the following information:

Account Name: International Presbyterian Church

Account Number: 00360009

Branch Address: Lloyds TSB plc
45 The Broadway
Ealing
London W5

Sort Code: 30 92 82

For further information about any aspect of giving to IPC, Contact the Church Office

ipcealing@yahoo.co.uk

Tel: 020 8997 4706

www.ipc-ealing.co.uk