

WHY SUNDAY? WHY DO WE GIVE?
APA — October 18, 2026

Big Idea
Giving is an act of corporate worship. We give not simply to pay the church's bills, but to worship God, resist the power money can have over our hearts, and partner together in the mission of helping people follow Jesus.
Main Scriptures: Matthew 6:19–24, Malachi 3:8–10, 1 Corinthians 9:6–8, 2 Corinthians 8:9

INTRODUCTION — WHY DO WE GIVE?
- We've explored why we gather on Sundays and why we preach, sing, pray, take communion, and have kids church.
- Giving can feel like a necessary burden rather than an act of worship.
- While the church needs financial resources, giving is about much more than paying bills.
Big Idea: Giving is an act of corporate worship.
- We pool our resources to accomplish what we could not do alone.
- We may not give the same amount, but we can all participate in the shared sacrifice of supporting the church's mission.

1. MONEY IS A SPIRITUAL ISSUE

Main Passage: Matthew 6:19–24
"You cannot serve both God and money." — Matthew 6:24

- Jesus teaches us to store up treasures in heaven rather than becoming consumed by earthly possessions.
- Money is not just a material issue; it can become a spiritual rival to God.
- We can become so focused on gaining and keeping money that it begins to control our lives.
What is worship?
Worship involves:
- Reverence and adoration — giving something importance.
- Dedication — committing ourselves to it.
- Pursuit — directing our affections toward it.
- Sacrifice — giving something up for what we value.
- Prominence — allowing it to shape our priorities.

Money can take God's place when we allow it to control our desires and decisions. Sometimes we even try to use God to gain wealth or success.
Key Takeaway: Instead of using God to get money, use your money to worship God.
- This includes making ethical financial decisions and giving generously.
- Giving helps loosen the hold money can have over our hearts.

2. EVERYTHING WE HAVE BELONGS TO THE LORD
Main Passage: Psalm 24:1
"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it…"

- Everything ultimately belongs to God, including the resources and abilities we use to earn a living.
- Deuteronomy 8:17–18 reminds us that God gives us the ability to produce wealth.
We are stewards, not owners.
- God blesses us with the opportunity to enjoy His provision, but we are responsible for using what He gives us faithfully.

- Giving is not paying God a fee. The biblical language is to bring to God what already belongs to Him.
Key Takeaway: Everything we have is a gift from God, and we are called to steward it faithfully.

3. WE BRING GOD WHAT IS HIS
Main Passage: Leviticus 27:30
- In the Old Testament, God's people were instructed to bring a tithe, meaning 10%, of their produce to the Lord.
- They were to bring the first and best of their harvest, not simply what remained.
Exodus 23:19 teaches God's people to bring the best of their firstfruits to the house of the Lord.

What was the tithe used for?
- Supporting the priests and Levites.
- Providing for communal worship and temple upkeep.
- Caring for the poor and vulnerable.

Malachi 3:8–10 calls God's people to bring their tithes into the storehouse so there would be provision for the temple.
Key Takeaway: Giving supports the worship of God and the work He has called His people to do.

4. IS TITHING STILL RELEVANT TODAY?
- Churches still need financial support for staff, ministries, outreach, and caring for those in need.
- If we value the ministry of the church, we should participate in supporting it.
From obligation to generosity
- The New Testament does not explicitly command Christians to give exactly 10% to their local church.
- However, the Old Testament principle of giving provides a helpful foundation.
- A tithe can be a useful benchmark, but generosity will look different depending on each person's circumstances.

The goal is not that everyone gives the same amount, but that everyone learns to give generously and sacrificially.

1 Corinthians 9:6–8 — Giving Cheerfully
- Each person should decide in their heart how much to give.
- Giving should not come from pressure, guilt, or fear.
- God loves a cheerful giver and provides so that we can continue sharing with others.
Key Takeaway: Christian giving is not about meeting a minimum requirement; it is about allowing the love of Jesus to shape our generosity.

5. WE GIVE BECAUSE JESUS GAVE FIRST
Main Passage: 2 Corinthians 8:9
“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.”

- Jesus gave up His riches for our sake so we could receive the riches of His grace.
- Paul points to Jesus as our example of generosity.
- We give because we have received so much through Him.
Our giving also supports the work of the local church, including ministry, outreach, and caring for those in need.
Key Takeaway: We give because we are following the example of Jesus, who gave everything for us.

6. HOW SHOULD I START GIVING?
1. Pray About It
- Ask God to show you how He wants you to give.
- Be willing to respond when He challenges you to be generous.
- Remember that giving is an opportunity to partner with God and others.
2. Don't Wait
- Don't say, “I'll start giving when I make more money.”
- Generosity is a spiritual discipline that begins with what we have now.

- We give from what we have, not from what we don't have.
- This doesn't mean going deeper into debt to give, but learning to trust God with our resources.
Start where you are, make it regular, and allow God to grow your generosity.

3. Make It Meaningful

- Regular giving can become routine, but giving is meant to be an act of worship.
- Pray over your offering and ask God to use it to expand His Kingdom.
- Reflect on the ministry and mission your giving supports.
- Regularly ask God whether He is calling you to change or increase your giving.

Key Takeaway: Make giving an intentional act of worship that reflects your trust in God.

CONCLUSION — WE GIVE BECAUSE HE GAVE

- Giving is about more than fundraising or paying bills. It is an act of worship to the God who gave us everything.
- God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son.
- Jesus laid down His life so that we could have life through Him.

Discussion & Reflection Questions

1. Money and our hearts: What are some ways money can quietly begin to shape our priorities, security, or decisions more than our faith does?
2. Stewardship: How might your perspective change if you viewed your income and possessions as things entrusted to you by God rather than things that belong exclusively to you?
3. Generosity and sacrifice: What is the difference between giving what is convenient and giving in a way that genuinely requires trust or sacrifice? How might that look different for different people?
4. Motivation: How can we tell whether we're giving out of gratitude and worship rather than guilt, pressure, or a desire to get something from God?
5. Living generously: Beyond giving money to the church, what are some practical ways we can use our resources to love others and participate in God's mission?
6. Personal response: What is one change you could make to help your giving become more intentional, joyful, or generous?