



GULF SHORES
CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday Morning Message (April 24, 2016)

Sermon by Ray Reynolds

Text: I Corinthians 8:1-7, 9:6-8

Introduction: Jesus said, “*It is more blessed to give than to receive*” (**Acts 20:35**). We should see it is a blessing when we have an opportunity to give. God has always commanded His people to come before Him with something to offer to Him. It would be a shame to come to God empty handed. God’s people have always given the Lord tithes, offerings, and special gifts. Giving an offering on the Lord’s Day has always been a practiced by the New Testament church as an act of worship (**Acts 2:44-45, Acts 4:32-37, I Corinthians 16:1-2, II Corinthians 8:1-7, II Corinthians 9:6-8**). Is it better to give than to receive? Let’s study together...

Discussion:

I. Old Testament Principles on Giving

- Giving Was Commanded (**Genesis 14:20, Leviticus 27:30-32, Deuteronomy 14:22-29**)
- Giving Was Common (**Genesis 4:3-5, I Chronicles 21:20-28, II Chronicles 31:5**)
- Giving Was Consistent (**Malachi 1:8, Nehemiah 3:9-10, Ezekiel 44:30**)
- Giving Was Conditional (**Malachi 3:6-12, Proverbs 3:9-10, Deuteronomy 15:6**)

II. New Testament Principles on Giving

- Giving Is Proof of Our Faith (**Matthew 6:21, Hebrews 5, II Peter 3:18**)
- Giving Is Proof of Our Love (**John 3:16, Romans 13:8, Hebrews 13:5**)
- Giving Is Proof of Our Transformation (**John 10:17-18, Romans 12:1-2, Philippians 2:5**)
- Giving Is Proof of Our Sacrifice (**Galatians 6:2, 10, Matthew 6:1-4, James 1:27**)

III. The Apostle Paul’s Principles on Giving

- Giving Is A Part of Our Stewardship (**I Corinthians 4:2**)
- Giving Is Commanded By God (**I Corinthians 16:2**)
- Giving Is According To How We Have Prospered (**I Corinthians 16:2**)
- Giving Is A Joyful Act (**II Corinthians 8:2**)
- Giving Is A Grace (**II Corinthians 8:6-7**)
- Giving Is Profitable (**II Corinthians 9:6**)
- Giving Is An Antidote For Covetousness (**II Corinthians 9:7**)
- Giving Is To Be Done Cheerfully (**II Corinthians 9:7**)

Conclusion: God has called us to be generous. He has called us to be His hands and feet in the world. Those are some big shoes to fill! We have to know that God wants our heart, mind, soul, and strength (**Mark 12:30**) to execute His will on earth. Do you believe: “IT IS BETTER TO GIVE THAN RECIEVE?” What will you give? Will you give your life to Him? Will you surrender your time to Him? Will you begin to work for Him? Will you share your blessings so that He will be glorified?