



## Stewardship + Giving Principles

Q+A's about stewardship

### 1. What is generosity?

Generosity is the natural, consistent, and occasionally spontaneous giving of our material possessions to God's service and our communities because of and modeled after what Jesus Christ has done for us on the cross. As God "did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all" (Rom. 8:32), so our posture toward God and others in response to his love should be one of cheerful sacrifice and generosity.

### 2. What is stewardship?

A steward is a person who has been entrusted with, and manages, another's resources according to the owner's vision and values. Each of us was created for stewardship by God. (Gen. 1:28). A steward is both a ruler, with authority to govern resources, and a slave, accountable to an owner of those resources. The New Testament calls Christians caretakers of God's truths and gifts - even "God's grace" (I Cor. 4:1, I Peter 4:10).

### 3. What's a tithe and should I do it? What percentage of my income should I give away?

In the Old Testament, believers were required to give a tenth of their income to the support of the ministry and the needs of the poor. The New Testament teaches that we should give as we are "able and even beyond [our] ability" (2 Corinthians 8:3). Therefore, the tithe (10%) is seen as a kind of minimum guideline for giving – a platform to begin our giving endeavors. Each individual or family should prayerfully determine what percentage of their income they feel they should give and then give that amount regularly through a monthly/yearly budget.

Whatever percentage we prayerfully decide to give away should require some sacrifice – sacrificial giving is modeled for us in the Scriptures as proper and beneficial. Scripture also teaches that we are to give back to God our "firstfruits" (Exodus 23:16, 19). Proverbs 3:9 encourages us to "honor the LORD with [our] wealth, with the firstfruits of [our] crops," meaning the primary and choicest of our possessions. God has modeled "firstfruits" giving in offering us his Son Jesus Christ. Our response to God should reflect our love of and devotion to him.

### 5. What if I am unable to give 10%?

There are seasons to our economic life and we are called to give what we are able to give (2 Corinthians 8:3). There are financial responsibilities to our families, friends, communities and, in some cases, creditors. In any stage of life, good planning and budgeting is necessary to increase our giving over time without neglecting our legal and personal financial obligations. Further, for some people, 10% is too low a starting point. For others, giving even 4% would be an incredible sacrifice. The goal is to increase one's commitment up to and above 10%, so that we are enabled to give sacrificially and generously to the ministries and causes dear to our hearts; and, in so doing, we represent our generous and giving God to the world around us.

## **6. Should I give all of my tithe/offering to Grace Church of Dunedin?**

The answer to this is a qualified "no." Your gift is an act of personal worship to God in response to his grace in your life and the gift of his Son. The allocation of your money and time to God's service should be a byproduct of prayer and consultation with other Christians to whom you are accountable. However, if you consider Grace Church your "home church," you should consider allocating a significant portion of your giving to the community where you invest most of your time, and where others are investing in you.

## **7. Isn't there more to generosity and stewardship than money?**

Absolutely. We are called to be good stewards of all that God has given us: money, time, skills, influence, and position. Therefore, generosity and stewardship are about much more than money, but not less than our financial resources. Jesus said, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). Our heart's inclination is to worship anything other than God. In our culture, money can become an idol. Therefore, giving it away generously to God's service can liberate us from our idolatry and fix our eyes on Jesus (Hebrews 12:2).

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In a young church like Grace Church, every gift, both large and small, helps us toward our mission and calling! Your giving counts and is greatly appreciated!

Read the full Mission and Vision of Grace Church [HERE](#).

Here's how you can give to the [mission](#) of Grace Church:

#1 You can drop your gift in one of our Grace Boxes on Sunday mornings.

#2 You can mail your donation to:

Grace Church  
PO Box #421  
Dunedin, FL 34697

#3 You can also donate online [HERE](#).