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Cross Creek Weekly Update

September 4, 2011



"Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance of every good deed..." - 2 Corinthians 9:6-8



Dear Family,

One of the most frequent questions asked of pastors is to provide some guideline concerning giving. Precisely how much should people give to the church? What would be a good ball-park figure? When people ask how much they should give it may appear crass on the surface, but it really is a reasonable question particularly if they are new to the community.

It would be impossible to unpack all the Biblical teaching on giving in this newsletter, but it certainly appears that, based on 2 Corinthians 8-9, giving should be voluntary and cheerful, but also radically generous (Acts 4:34-37). It is true that in one sense God demands all we have (a phrase I often draw upon), but that doesn't really do anything to provide some concrete direction. My recommendation based on Scripture, as a beginning of financial discipleship, is 10 percent of our income (Deuteronomy 14; Numbers 18). Certainly arguments can be waged that the Old Testament tithe was not based on wealth, or even on income generally, but on agricultural produce (storehouses; cf. Malachi 3:10) but I think it's appropriate that the "cheerful" giving of 2 Corinthians 9:7 at the very least captures that.

Ultimately, I believe that generosity in supporting the Bride of Christ with our giving is a matter of the heart. A heart that has been transformed by the generosity of our Father through the Gospel of Jesus Christ is a heart that gives generously. It really is a matter of the heart. May God, by His grace, call all of us to re-examine our support of Cross Creek - for His glory and not for our own.

Peace,

Paul

This Week:

HS & MS Youth Group, Wed, Aug 24, 7:00 PM at the church.

Sunday Worship Service - 10:30 AM

Communion and Mercy Offering

Taking Pictures of new families - after service on the front porch