

1 Corinthians 16:1-9
“Financial stewardship”

For more information on this subject go to apptoteach.org theology files #816

Misconceptions about faith and finances.

- ✓ Money is a worldly, not a spiritual item.
- ✓ Riches = God's favor
- ✓ Riches = Carnality
- ✓ Financial stewardship affects only 10% of one's assets.
- ✓ Material resources are static.
- ✓ The great power of wealth is in its use to help those in need.
- ✓ Materialism is primarily a sin of the wealthy.

How to detect a materialistic spirit in your own life.

- ✓ Do you find great security in what you have (or hope that you might have)?
- ✓ Do you respond graciously when you loose material wealth?
- ✓ Do you find more joy in sacrificial giving than in making a “making a lot of money?”
- ✓ Do you envy or judge others who have more material things than you do?
- ✓ Do you play favorites with the rich and powerful of this world?

1 Corinthians 16

“¹ Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also.”

- ✓ **Parochial. Support for the saints is a priority.**

What is materialism?

It is not:

- ✓ being materially wealthy.
- ✓ consuming more than we need.
- ✓ being aggressive in making money.

It is:

**defining our hopes
and making decisions
as though the material world is the
most important part of life.**

1 Corinthians 16

Four principles of financial stewardship

“¹ Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also. ² On the first day of every week let each one of you put aside and save, as he may prosper, that no collections be made when I come. ³ And when I arrive, whomever you may approve, I shall send them with letters to carry your gift to Jerusalem; ⁴ and if it is fitting for me to go also, they will go with me.”

Two models of social justice

Incarnation

Go into the world and work to reform it so that it reflects the values of God's Kingdom.

Crucifixion

Bring people to the community of faith where they will be respected and loved.

Acts 2:44

“All those who had believed were together, and had all things in common; and they began to sell their property and possessions, and **share them with all, as anyone might have need.**”

Romans 15:26

“For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make a contribution for the poor **among the saints in Jerusalem.**”

1 Corinthians 16

“² . . . as he may prosper,”

✓ **Proportional.** To whom much is given, much is expected.

2 Corinthians 8

“¹² For if the readiness is present, it is acceptable **according to what a man has**, not according to what he does not have. ¹³ For this is not for the ease of others and for your affliction, but by way of **equality**”

Acts 11:28-30

“²⁸ And one of them named Agabus stood up and began to indicate by the Spirit that there would certainly be a great famine all over the world. And this took place in the reign of Claudius. ²⁹ And in the proportion that any of the disciples had means, each of them determined to send a contribution for the relief of **the brethren living in Judea.** ³⁰ And this they did, sending it in charge of Barnabas and Saul to the elders.”

1 Corinthians 16

“² On the first day of every week let each one of you put aside and save,”

✓ **Planned.** Intentional, regular, disciplined generosity is wise.

The Biblical Tithe

✓ **The tithe system was a part of the Law Covenant with Israel through Moses.**

✓ **It consisted of three tithes:** (Josephus)

1. 10% to the Levites' ministry
2. 10% to a sacred meal in Jerusalem
3. 10% to the poor (1/3 every 3rd year)

✓ **Not being under the Law we are called to a principle of equality and freedom.**

1 Corinthians 16

“³ And when I arrive, whomever you may approve, I shall send them with letters to carry your gift to Jerusalem; ⁴ and if it is fitting for me to go also, they will go with me.”

✓ **Personal.** It is important to give ourselves as well as our money.

1 Corinthians 16

“⁵ But I shall come to you after I go through Macedonia, for I am going through Macedonia; ⁶ and perhaps I shall stay with you, or even spend the winter, that you may send me on my way wherever I may go. ⁷ For I do not wish to see you now {just} in passing; for I hope to remain with you for some time, if the Lord permits. ⁸ But I shall remain in Ephesus until Pentecost; ⁹ for a wide door for effective {service} has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.”

Proverbs 3:9-10

“**Honor the Lord** from your wealth, and from the first of all your produce; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.”

1. **Material wealth is an instrument for worship.**

Luke 16:11

“If therefore you have **not been faithful** in the use of unrighteous Mammon, who will entrust the true riches to you?”

2. **Material wealth is an instrument for testing.**

1 John 3

“¹⁷ But whoever has the world’s goods, and beholds **his brother** in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.”

3. **Material wealth is an instrument for showing love to God’s people.**

1 Timothy 6:9-10

“⁹ But those who want to get rich **fall into temptation and a snare** and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang.”

4. **Material wealth is an instrument for temptation.**