

The Generous Life Barriers To Giving

Reading: [Reading](#)

Introduction

- 7,106 people worldwide participated in the survey for the 2018 Global Trends in Giving Report. Of those, 1,049 responded that they had not given to charity within the last 12 months. Here are six reasons why:
 - 43% responded that they do not give to charity because they do not have the financial resources.
 - 20% volunteer in lieu of making donations.
 - 17% donate goods and/or services in lieu of making a donation.
 - 12% don't trust organizations to spend their money well.
 - 6% prefer to spend their money on their family and friends.
 - 2% don't believe that organizations make a positive difference
- There are many barriers to giving, we want to consider a few and try to give biblical responses to this.

1. Misunderstanding Can Be A Barrier To A Generous Life

- We cannot cover every misunderstanding, there are just too many.
- Some misunderstand what the purpose of giving is.
 - They may think that asking for money is all the church does
 - They may think that some abuse the funds (12% see above)
 - While this may be true in some cases, the Lord's work requires funding. Even Jesus had financial supporters.

- [Luke 8:3](#) and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who provided for Him from their substance.
- Anything worth doing is worth funding. It makes no sense to think otherwise. I don't mean to sound sarcastic, but apparently, some people think sports events are worth more than anything else.
 - The purpose of giving is to support the ministry of Jesus, the Gospel
- The actions or attitudes of others can also hinder contributions
 - One woman said, I'm not going to church when that song leader is a hypocrite. Mary and I said, so you're going to let a hypocrite keep you out of heaven? We were glad she came back after that.
 - One young foster couple adopted a child from another race and some so-called Christians had negative things to say about it. As far as I know they still go to church, but some people use that as an excuse to withhold contribution of any kind
 - **Question:** what did **God** do to make us stop supporting His work?
 - We misunderstand who the offender is: It's NOT God.

[Eph. 5:17](#) do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

[Matthew 13:44-46](#) "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

2. Selfishness Is A Barrier To A Generous Life

- Selfishness is a cancer that hinders everything.
 - It destroys relationships of any kind.
 - It keeps good work from being done
 - It keeps good people from obtaining help
 - It keeps lost people from being saved.

[Phil. 2:3-4](#) Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

3. Ignorance

- Some think giving is only about money
 - There are other ways to give: time, energy, prayer
 - Giving can include supplies, or food, or clothing, or help
 - Giving can include emotional, or intellectual, or physical support
- Some think giving is not important
 - Yet it is a command to give.

[2 Cor. 9:7](#) So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

[2 Cor. 8:12](#) For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have.

- Giving is the only way non-profit organizations can continue
- Based on these passages:
 - Giving is determined by your willingness
 - Giving is determined by your pleasure
 - Giving is determined by your ability
- Remember Ananias and Sapphira in [Acts 5](#)? They died because of their bad attitude about giving. They were not unwilling to give, but they wanted attention, so they lied. The lie did them in.

4. Lack of Ability

- Some people just don't have the ability to give much. So, they think they can't give at all.
 - I have talked to kids about money. If we plan our money early enough, we can save enough for retirement, but we can't forget to plan for opportunities to give donations. We don't have to give everything we obtain, but we need to learn early to be generous.
 - Some parents have their children put a quarter or a dollar in the collection plate so they will know that it is something important.
- Jesus praised the woman who gave all she had:

[Luke 21:1-4](#) He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites. So He said, "Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had."

- The truth is, each of us gives what we purpose in our hearts.
- I hope we purpose out of love for God and His kingdom