



Stewardship

A VILLAGE BIBLE CHURCH DISTINCTIVE

The *Distinctives* series articulates key biblical and theological convictions of Village Bible Church.

www.villagebible.org/distinctives

What do we believe about our stuff?

Very simply, everything we have comes from God and it all belongs to God – not to us. Stewardship is defined as ...“using God-given abilities to manage God-owned properties to attain God-ordained results.”

The Lord owns all of our possessions. As stewards we simply manage and administer things on His behalf. He entrusts possessions to us and then holds us accountable for their use. The recognition that God owns it all is crucial in allowing Jesus Christ to become the Lord of our money and possessions.

Our responsibility is summed up in this verse: “It is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy” (1 Corinthians 4:2).

Stewardship of life involves faithfully using all of the resources God has given to us—including our finances—to reflect His glory. Psalm 24:1 tells us this: “The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it”. With this truth in mind, we recognize that the way we live our lives and give of our finances—the very lives and finances that belong to the Lord—reflects what we really believe in regard to these biblical ideas:

1. In my giving I declare my high view of who God is – that He is the generous Creator and Sustainer of all things.
 - Psalm 24:1-2
 - James 1:17
 - Deuteronomy 8:17-20
 - 2 Corinthians 8:9
2. In my giving I worship God - demonstrating both my dependence upon Him and my trust in His provision for me and for my family.
 - Genesis 4:1-7
 - Genesis 14:16-20
 - Philippians 4:19-20
3. In my giving I actively obey and participate in God's redemptive mission both locally and globally.
 - Philippians 4:15-16
4. In my giving I store up treasures in heaven, experiencing the blessings of God both now and in the resurrection.
 - Philippians 4:17
 - Matthew 6:19-20
 - Matthew 19:27-29
 - 1 Timothy 6:17-19

How much should I give?

The Old Testament law required God's people to give approximately 30% of their income to the Lord - a tithe of 10% plus approximately 20% in festival gifts.

The New Testament does not say how much we should give today but rather seeks to deal with the heart behind our giving. 2 Corinthians 8 and 9 say that our giving should be cheerful, regular, sacrificial and generous. Many Christians like to start with the goal of a 10% tithe. That's a great general goal to set and one that even suggest you prayerfully consider. Remember, however, that the New Testament does not prescribe a percentage; through prayer we must seek to have a clear conscience with regard to our giving. God might lead you to give only 5% for this season of your life – or he might lead you to give 95%! However He leads you, remember Jesus' words: *"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"* (Matthew 6:21).

Who should give?

Christians should give faithfully to their local church. If you are not a Christian, don't give. Seek to deal with the larger issue: your sin and Jesus' forgiveness of that sin. We are less concerned about the amount people give than with the number of people who are giving. God is building His kingdom through the church, and He asks that all believers share in this joyous responsibility. This mission is bigger than just a few of us and takes everyone's effort and faithfulness.

Giving Continuum

As we desire to see the people of Village Bible Church spiritually formed into the likeness of Jesus Christ, we believe that we must mature in the area of Financial Stewardship. We believe that maturity in giving can be best illustrated on the following continuum (from least mature to most mature):

- Reactive Giving – Gives impulsively and emotionally in response to a need and does not give otherwise.
- Occasional Giver – Gives sporadically at best.
- Regular Giver – Gives minimally on a regular basis.
- Proportional Giver – Gives a percentage (generally at least 10%) of income.
- Generous Giver – Gives sacrificially more than 10% of income, and responds to additional needs as opportunities arise.

As you consider the continuum described, which description most describes you or your family? We hope to see each person, couple or family move up the continuum and become Generous Givers.

How can I give at Village?

- **GIVING BOXES:** Place a check or cash in one of the giving boxes located at the back of the church sanctuary. (If you would like giving envelopes, please request these at the Welcome Center.)
- **ONLINE GIVING:** You can make an online one-time (or reoccurring) contribution from your checking account or savings account. This is a great method as it saves you and the church time and solves the problem of forgetting to bring a check to church or forgetting to put it in the offering box! www.villagebible.org/give
- **AUTOMATIC GIVING:** Automatic contributions can be set up so that you can make a regular contribution without having to remember to bring your check to church. If you are trying to give on a regular basis but have difficulty keeping that commitment because of forgetfulness or vacations, this is a great solution. From a church standpoint, this would be the preferred way to give as it helps to make giving systematic and consistent – which helps a great deal from a cash flow standpoint! Set up your reoccurring gift at www.villagebible.org/give
- **MAIL:** Mail a check (contact the office if you would like some self-addressed envelopes):
 - Aurora/Grace Campus: 1401 West Galena Blvd, Aurora, 60506
 - Indian Creek Campus: 209 N. Nokomis St, Shabbona, 60550
 - Sugar Grove Campus: 847 N IL RT 47, Sugar Grove, 60554
- **STOCK:** For some a stock donation can be a wise way to give. Please call 630-466-7198 if you would like to give stock.
- **EMPLOYER MATCH:** Many employers will match charitable gifts, up to a certain amount. Churches almost always qualify for these matching contributions. The only thing you need to do is fill out the paperwork. It's a great way to increase your impact!