

Why We Do What We Do
Collection
I Cor. 16:1-2

Introduction:

Each Sunday we take up a collection, or an offering. Why do we do such a thing?
How much are we commanded to give?

- I. The Old Law gave the Israelites specific instructions for giving.
- A. The Israelites were commanded to give a tithe of all their possessions.
1. **Lev. 27:30-32**
 2. **Num. 18:25-26** – Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak thus to the Levites, and say to them: ‘When you take from the children of Israel the tithes which I have given you from them as your inheritance, then you shall offer up a heave offering of it to the Lord, a tenth of the tithe.’”
- B. The tithe was very important to the Pharisees.
1. **Mt. 23:23**
 2. **Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done without leaving the others undone.**

Let’s notice our New Testament command to give from **II Cor. 9:6-7**.

- II. We reap what we sow (**6**).
- A. This is a basic Biblical principal, especially when it comes to giving.
1. **Gal. 6:7-9**
 2. **Prov. 11:24-25** - There is one who scatters, yet increases more; and there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty. {25} The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself.
 3. **Prov. 22:9** - He who has a generous eye will be blessed, for he gives of his bread to the poor.
 4. **Luke 6:38** - "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."
- B. We lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven.
1. **Mt. 6:19-21**
 2. **Mt. 19:21** – Jesus said to him (the rich young ruler), “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

- III. We give as we have purposed in our hearts (7).
- A. Our giving is from the heart.
 - 1. Our giving is not forced upon us, but is voluntary.
 - 2. "Not grudgingly or of necessity."
 - B. Our giving is planned.
 - 1. It is not a spur of the moment decision.
 - 2. We do not make our decision on how much to give as the plate is being passed.
 - C. "God loves a cheerful (Gr. prompt or willful) giver."
 - 1. When it comes to giving the way that God wants us to, it is a matter of the heart.
 - 2. Our ATTITUDE will make the difference!
 - 3. The Israelites gave a percentage, and their attitude in giving did not mean much.
 - D. The Corinthians could give more than they were able because Christ was first in their hearts (II Cor. 8:3).
 - 1. Mt. 6:33 - "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."
 - 2. When Christ is first in our lives, then we will give what we can to the Lord.
 - a. If Christ is exalted in our hearts, there is nothing that we will not do for Him.
 - b. We will be at every service, we will sing with understanding, and we will give as we should.

Conclusion:

What is the condition of your heart?