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Grace and Peace to you

Ten Principles of Christian Giving

by Dr. J. Ligon Duncan

Very often, people ask or wonder “What are the basic Biblical principles for Christian giving?” As we seek God’s answer to that question and as we contemplate our own giving to the Lord’s Church in response to the clear teaching of His Word, perhaps it would be wise and helpful to review those principles here. First, let us read the Word of God itself, without comment:

Matthew 6:1-4 *Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven. So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.*

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 *Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also. On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.*

2 Corinthians 8:9-15 *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich. I give my opinion in this matter, for this is to your advantage, who were the first to begin a year ago not only to do this, but also to desire to do it. But now finish doing it also, so that just as there was the readiness to desire it, so there may be also the completion of it by your ability. For if the readiness is present, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have. For this is not for the ease of others and for your affliction, but by way of equality -- at this present time your abundance being a supply for their need, so that their abundance also may become a supply for your need, that there may be equality; as it is written, “HE WHO gathered MUCH DID NOT HAVE TOO MUCH, AND HE WHO gathered LITTLE HAD NO LACK.”*

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 *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.*

In our review of these four New Testament passages, we find at least ten principles for Christian giving.

1. The Lord Jesus expects and requires us to give. Jesus said to His disciples, “when you give” not “if you give” (Matthew 6:2)! Hence, Christian giving is not optional, but rather essential. We often hear folks say: “in the Old Testament they *had* to give, but not in the New -- now we only give if we want to.” This is clearly not Jesus’ teaching. He expected all His followers to be givers. Christians *will* give. **Are you giving?**

2. The Lord Jesus wants us to give for the right reasons. Jesus warned His disciples not to give for the sake of being admired by men. “Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them,” He said (Matthew 6:1). When we give, we must be careful to examine our motives. We ought to give for the glory of God and the good of His people. We must desire His approval of our giving, rather than the praise and admiration of people. **Are you giving for God’s praise or man’s?**

3. The Lord Jesus wants us to practice benevolent or charitable giving. Jesus said “When you give to the poor” (Matthew 6:2,3). Jesus is specifically teaching about “alms” in this passage: aid, charity, or benevolent offerings for the needy. **Do you give amply enough to the Church that she can be generous in benevolent giving?**

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The logo features the word "The" in a red script font, "CHRISTMAS" in large green block letters, "CAROL" in large red block letters, and "SPECIAL REPORT" in white block letters on a purple background with white stars. The background is a light yellow with a torn paper effect.

The CHRISTMAS CAROL SPECIAL REPORT

The West Hills Wednesday Night Kids
Will present their Christmas music program

“The Christmas Carol Special Report”

Wednesday, December 14, 6:30pm

Following Christmas Dinner

You will want to make sure you are in attendance to enjoy their Christmas music offering. There will be “live” reports from around the world and a “Living Nativity Scene.”



Mid-Winter Lock-In 2017

January 27, 6:00pm

January 28, 9:00am

Grades K- 5th gr.

Cost \$5.00

An overnight adventure of pizza, games, music, movies and devotions. Be

there! Invite your friends. Sign-up by Wednesday, January 25.



The Sanctuary Choir will present

*"Holy Night of Miracles -
A Cantata of Hope for Christmas"
Sunday, December 18th, 5:00pm*

The composers of this cantata best described the work as saying, "Holy Night of Miracles is a reminder that the hope born on that first Christmas night is still needed today and ultimately found in the miraculous Child born in Bethlehem.





Following the service there will be a time of fellowship and refreshments in the FAC.

Please bring your favorite "Finger Food".

The Foreign Mission Committee would like to acknowledge, and is grateful for, a significant contribution designated to Foreign Missions in the month of October 2016. This contribution was given in memory of Ray Dean.



December 2016

				1 Good News Club 1:45pm Sam Rhyne 	2	3 Prayer Gathering 10am Women's Christmas Brunch 10am
4 Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:50am WM Council Mtg Prayer Gathering 6pm  Richard Keen Michelle Mckenzie	5 Monday Night Care Group 6:30pm	6  Cook Gilchrist	7 Family Dinner 5:30 Ensemble singing during Dinner. Adult & Children Programs 6:30pm Choir 6:30pm	8 Good News Club 1:45pm	9  Blake Steed	10 Prayer Gathering 10am

11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Sunday School 9:30am *Communion/ Worship 10:50am Tami Defenderfer Stinnett, KY Trip	Monday Night Care Group 6:30pm Julia Steed Stinnett, KY Trip	Session/Deacon Mtg. 7pm Richard Maples	Family Dinner 5:30 Children's "Christmas Carol Special Report" 6:30pm	Good News Club 1:45pm Choir 6:30pm Dick Bowles Ron Mitchell	G.A.P. 11am Janice Richardson	Prayer Gathering 10am Don Redman
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:50am Christmas Cantata 5:00pm	Monday Night Care Group 6:30pm Blue Star Moms 6:30pm Park Coffin				Susan Joiner	Prayer Gathering 10am
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Merry Christmas No Sunday School Worship 10:50am Kristin Trindle	Church Office Closed 6:30pm Ellen Smith	Jim Coffin Xavier Tyler		Robin Genung		Phil Moor

January Birthdays: Al Grant 1/8, Bob Stogner 1/9, Faye Poston 1/10, Margaret Duggan 1/14, Elijah McKenzie 1/24, Claudette Starr 1/27, Isaac Bailey 1/30, Mary Stevens, 1/30, Dougal Moore, 1/31.

Did we miss your birthday? Please call the church office and let us know your date. 865-693-2031.

Communion is the second Sunday of every month.

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**West Hills Presbyterian Church, PCA
2016**

December

Announcements & Prayer Needs:

Women's Ministry Day and Night Circle will be studying "Titus: Passing on the Truth" by Bennett and Poole. Our teacher Julie Moore will start the study in January. There is a sign-up sheet in the church foyer on the table. Deadline to sign-up is December 16th.

Missionary month is approaching and we would like to begin collecting items for the gift bags we provide to the mission wives. Lotions, small picture frames, aloe socks, devotional items, scented candles and soaps, tumblers for hot and cold drinks, and other relatively small items. There will be a basket for donations at the Women's Christmas Brunch Or you can leave items in the church office.

Sarah Dockery's Knoxville area Home School Ensemble will be delighting us with Christmas music during the Wednesday Dinner, December 7th. Please come enjoy great music, food and fellowship.

Please Pray For: WHPC Family & Friends

Clara Abercrombie
Charlotte Anderton
Nancy Crocker
Betty Emery
Al & Beth Grant
Shirley Hedrick
Fay Hontz
Kane McAfee
Henry McIlwaine
Bob & Betty Mills
Bill & Mimi Morrison
Tammy Owsley & Logan
Irene Price
Alice Redman
Elise Russell
Keith & Cheryl Sowder
Claudette Starr
Robert Thio
Kristin Trindle
Mary Zitzman
Our Elders & Deacons
Our Church
Our Missionaries
Our nation/President

**WHPC Active Duty Military
Personnel**
Eric Abercrombie

Please remember that the church office needs to approve all note cards, articles, pamphlets, flyers, announcements, etc. before they are put on the foyer table, church bulletin board, or wall/door signs holders.

The 2017 Flower Calendar will be available on the bulletin board across from the elevator after December 3rd. If you would like to provide flowers for the sanctuary, please sign your name on the designated date and note if you are giving the flowers "in honor" or "in memory" of a loved one. The cost is \$50. Please make your payment to the church marked "Flowers".

(10-16-16 – 11-13-16)
Average Attendance - 148
Average Visitors Attendance - 7

Please remember these dates in prayer December 11 & 12, for the Stinnett, KY Mission of Hope Trip.

Free Books for the taking in the church Library on the table in front of window. We have duplicates. **Our library needs volunteers!** If you love books, you'll love this job! Call Beth Grant for more information.

Save the Date! Girls Night Out - Dinner & a Movie, February 10th.

October 2016 Financial Report

Income

Actual Income for October: \$55,067.45
Actual Income for Year-to date: \$325,317.03

Expense

Actual Expense for October: \$38,234.25
Actual Expense Year-to-date: \$398,848.54

Summary

Current Month Income Exceeds Expenses by: \$16,833.20
Year-to-date Expenses Exceeds Year-to-date Income by: **\$75,531.51**



The Women's Ministry Council has a few items of business for you! At the December 3rd General Meeting and Christmas Brunch we will have a new slate of officers for 2017, a budget and revised bylaws for you to approve. A copy of each will be available at the meeting.

The following Officers for 2017 have received the Session's approval and include:

President - Debbie Kinnard
Vice President - Jill Rhyne
Recording Secretary - Janet Mullins
Treasurer - Susan Joiner
Day Circle - Rhonda Acree
Night Circle - Claudette Starr
Fellowship Co-Chairs - Sharon Bowles and Ria Tyler
Mercy Co-Chairs - Joni Maples and Suzanne Fowler
Communications- Faye Poston
Flower Chairman - Emily Cimino
Circle Teacher - Julie Moore

The revisions in the Women's Ministry Bylaws are to refine our role in equipping women to glorify the Lord and to assist our Pastor and Officers in their mission at WHPC. A few years ago, Council decided to emphasize our mission by changing our name from Women in the Church (WIC) to Women's Ministry. The logo that accompanies woman's ministry articles and fliers was created to reflect the change and now it is official! All references to WIC within the Bylaws have been changed to Women's Ministry.

Council has also refined Officer job descriptions, created an email account for Women's Ministry use, and incorporated a scanner to digitize Women's Ministry records. You are welcome at any time to review these job descriptions. Our new email address is: whpcwomensministry@gmail.com. You may obtain copies of all the documents mentioned here within the church office.

As stated in our mission, Council's job is to put before you opportunities for service to help you grow in your walk with Christ and foster love for the brethren. So please don't miss out on any opportunity! Call any one of the ladies above and you'll be put to work!

Blessings and hope to see you at the Christmas Brunch!

Tami Defenderfer

P.S. Mark your calendar: our first Women's Ministry event of the new year! February 10th, Girls Night Out- Dinner & Movie.

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WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

II Timothy 3:16

WHO: Women with a desire to study God's Word
WHAT: Ongoing weekly Bible Study;
Facilitator, Dannell Harb
WHEN: January 11- March 22
Wednesday mornings, 10AM-noon
WHERE: WHPC, Room 106



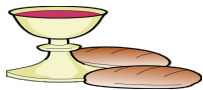
THE BOOK OF ACTS
Believing Jesus
A STUDY BY LISA HARPER

- Discover what it means to believe Jesus
- Learn how to shape our lives around that belief
- Determine how that belief needs to affect our choices
- Change the way we conduct ourselves with other Christians



- Each class includes a video segment and a discussion time.
- A study book with questions may be purchased for \$8 at the first class.
- A sign-up sheet will be located in the foyer.
- Bring a friend! Visitors always welcome!
- For more information, call Suzanne Fowler (584-2483) or Dannell Harb (584-3554).

**** **The Deadline for the newsletter** is the 15th of every month at noon. You may submit your article to the church office or email at churchofficewhpc@gmail.com. Include your name with your submission. We reserve the right to edit for style, content and length. ****



COMMUNION

Communion is normally served during worship hour on the second Sunday of each month. **This month Communion will be served on December 11th.**



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(Continued from page 1)

4. The Lord Jesus reminds us that our giving is ultimately to the all-seeing heavenly Father. Jesus said “When you give . . . ; your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you” (Matthew 6:3-4). When we give, we are not simply adding to the Church budget, we are giving up a thank offering to the Father Himself. Thus, we must all give “as unto the Lord.” Our ultimate goal in giving is to please Him. ***Are you conscious of the fact that your giving is to the Lord and seen by the Lord?***

5. The Bible teaches that Christian giving is an act of worship. In connection with the previous point, we see this truth stressed in another way in Paul’s word’s “On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save” (1 Corinthians 16:2). Paul here teaches the Corinthians that their taking up of the collection is an act of worship which is to be a part of their regular Lord’s Day worship. When we put our money in the plate, we are worshipping Almighty God in accordance with His Word. Note well, Paul is

speaking here of a “collection for the saints” – this is giving by the Church to the Church for the Church. *Did you realize that giving is a part of worship? Is your worship in this area abundant or inhibited? Is giving to the Church a priority with you?*

6. The Bible teaches that Christian giving should be done in light of the incarnation. Many Christians argue about whether the tithe (10% of our income) is still the standard for our giving to the Church (disputants usually want to show that less than 10% is fine). Paul scuttles the whole debate in one verse. He says: “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9). Christ’s self-giving is now the standard for our giving! We begin from the base of the tithe and aim for emulation of His self-sacrifice. Our giving is to be inspired and instructed by Christ’s inexpressible gift. In light of such a challenge, who could possibly satisfy himself with asking “how little a percentage is acceptable for me to give?” *Do you try to get by with giving as little as possible to the Lord, or do you give in view of the Lord’s costly sacrifice?*

7. The Bible teaches that Christian giving should be done in accordance with our means. Paul is quite clear on this: “For if the readiness is present, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have” (2 Corinthians 8:12). Put another way Paul is saying that you should give in proportion to what God has given you. He said it this way in 1 Corinthians 16:2, “each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper.” This means at least two things: (1) since we are all supposed to give proportionately, those who have more money are expected to give more [we who are particularly blessed materially must remember this], and (2) the Lord never asks us to give what we do not have, or contribute beyond our means. ***Are you really giving in proportion to the material blessings that the Lord has given you?***

8. The Bible teaches that the liberality of God’s blessings to us is connected to the liberality of our Christian giving. Though it may seem strange, both Jesus and Paul emphasize that there is a relation between our giving to the Lord and the Lord’s giving to us. As Paul says in 2 Corinthians 9:6 “Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.” About this matter J.A. Beet once said: “They who in giving think, not how little they can give, as they would if self-enrichment were the aim, but of benefits to be conferred, will receive back on the same principle. As they do to others, so God will act to them.” Jesus reminds us of this in Matthew 6:4, where He teaches that our reward in giving comes from our heavenly Father. As someone once said: “The desire to be generous and the means to be generous both come from God.” ***Do you realize that the Lord has given you much, so that you can give much?***

9. The Bible teaches that Christian giving must be willing giving, free giving. We learn this in 2 Corinthians 9:7 “Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion.” But doesn’t this contradict what we learned under the first principle, that Christian giving is *not* optional? The answer is, of course, no. True Christian giving is both mandatory and voluntary. It is required by God, but always willingly given by the believer. ***Is your giving to the Church something you do wholeheartedly, or indifferently, or grudgingly?***

10. The Bible teaches that Christian giving ought to be cheerful giving. As Paul says “God loves a cheerful giver.” This is a truly amazing assertion. Paul assures us here that the Lord takes a special delight in those who are joyful, energetic, merry givers. ***Is there joy in your heart as you give? Can you truly be characterized as a “cheerful giver?”***

We have not come close to reaching our potential for giving. Won’t you pray that we will give as we ought? That we will give for the right motives? That we will give joyously? And that we will give extravagantly?