



INTERNATIONAL BAPTIST CHURCH OF COLOGNE

Why give?

The foundational principle behind all giving is that first of all, we don't actually give God anything; rather we decide what to keep (2 Cor 9:9–10).

David also clearly articulates this principle when he writes, "But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you." (1 Chr 29:14)

Paul said 'see that you also excel in giving'. As wonderful as my contributions are in other areas, it is no good saying 'I will contribute excellently in other ways, just not giving.' God wants me to also be an excellent giver.

Paul says that giving money reflects our sincerity of heart. Jesus said giving is a matter of worship – you cannot serve both God and Mammon.

The heart only has room for one King. The heart that loves money will ask 'what is the minimum I have to give? But the heart that sincerely loves God will say, 'what is the maximum I can get away with giving?' Any excuse to give more is great!

Giving money is a privilege and keeps my heart sincerely serving God and not money.' Also, because Jesus said that our hearts would be where our money is, giving also helps keep us sincerely serving the church and our hearts sincerely set on eternity. Experience shows that trying to be a member without financial commitment doesn't work, as the member's heart soon drifts away from the church.

Paul encourages the Corinthians to look in astonishment at the generosity of the Macedonians and be spurred to give lavishly as a result. And Heb 10:24 tells us, "let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works."

In our money-crazy city, perhaps no good work needs more "stirring" than generous and disciplined giving.

We trust you'll be stirred by the generosity that is already a culture at IBC Cologne and would in time stir others by your counter-cultural example of radical generosity. (Mt 6:21. & Mt 6:24)

God has put a wonderful principle in place of sowing and reaping (2 Cor 9:6). This principle says that as we give, God will give back so that we have more to give. Prosperity theology teaches that we sow in order to reap wealth to live large in this life.

However, this misses the point. The harvest God promises is either more money to give away, or even better: souls won over to Jesus, or the feeling of the smile of God, who loves a cheerful giver. (2 Cor 9:7)

Paul talks of generous giving as flowing from "your confession of the Gospel of Christ" and evidence of "the surpassing grace of God upon you" (2 Cor 9:13–14). Of course, we don't give in order to get right with God. But God has graciously given us many "tests" by which we can know whether we are the real deal or not. How we treat our money is one of them.

In many places in these two chapters, Paul shows that the generosity of Christians helps to commend the truth of the gospel to unbelievers, and that many of them will cross the line of faith as a result. (2 Cor 9:12–13)

In this modern age, money gets moved around electronically so it only makes sense to have that available here. If you would like to tithe or give an offering electronically, below you can find our bank details.

Alternatively, join us on Sunday at 14:00 as we bring our offering as part of our worship.