



Part 1: *Giving to the Cause of the Gospel*

Part 2: *Spending Less to Give More*

Part 3: *Working as Worship*

INTRODUCTION – Life Is More Than a Shopping Montage

Stewardship is not just a financial add-on, it's not just an appendix in the life of discipleship. Our resources (time, talents, and money) fuel the engine that helps the church carry out God's mission.

~ Wally Kroeker, Finance consultant

DINE IN – A Cause Worth Giving To

1. *We manage God's grace...*

1 Peter 4:10

2. *We manage God's message...*

1 Corinthians 4:1-2; Romans 10:13-15; Colossians 1:13-14

3. *We manage God's money...*

Money is a miraculous thing. It is your personal energy reduced to portable form and endowed with power you do not possess. It can go where you cannot go; speak languages you cannot speak, lift burdens you cannot touch with your fingers; save lives with which you cannot deal directly.

~ Harry Emerson Fosdick (18:78-1969)

Romans 15:24; 1 Timothy 5:17-18

TAKE OUT – Our Financial Priority

The gospel shouldn't cost money to hear. The new wine is always free. But the wineskin, the delivery mechanism – that structure should be a financial priority for Christians.

CONCLUSION – Next Steps

1. If you are a visitor – try coming back!
2. If you are a non-Christian – try Home Church and ask lots of questions, or arrange to meet with a pastor and bring your questions there.
3. If you are a Christian who attends The Meeting House regularly but doesn't give...
 - a) Commit to finding out how to become a regular contributor (financial and otherwise) to The Meeting House. Visit the Info Desk today or go online.
 - b) Commit to finding a church where you can fully engage and fully support.
 - c) Write to ask@themeetinghouse.ca this week only and tell me why you don't give.

Q & Eh? Text 647.330.2789 or email ask@themeetinghouse.ca

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

Warming Up...

1. What are you most/least looking forward to in this series?
2. Think back... What was the first big responsibility you remember being left in charge of? What was the first big responsibility where you "dropped the ball"? What did you learn from that experience?
3. In our day-to-day living, what difference should it make whether we consider ourselves "owners" or "managers/stewards" of what God has given us?
4. For various reasons, talking about how we personally manage money is frequently a social taboo. In the church, this can handicap our ability to mutually disciple one another and hold back our ability to help each other grow spiritually. Do you tend to talk to others about spending and lifestyle decisions? Why or why not?

Look to the Book...

5. Read **1 Corinthians 9**, where Paul is describing and defending his ministry as an Apostle. A) What verse or idea stands out to you the most? Why? B) Although Christians have complete freedom in Christ, sometimes it may be wise to withhold from some freedoms for the sake of keeping the message of the gospel clear. Can you think of examples where this principle may be true in your experience? C) What might be the advantages and disadvantages of staying single for the cause of Christian ministry? D) What might be the advantages for the cause of the gospel of never being paid for Christian work, but keeping a 'secular' job for income? E) What might be the advantage of paying some Christian leaders to do full-time service (also see **1 Timothy 5:17-18**)? F) In general, how committed are you to supporting the work of The Meeting House financially? Why?

So What?...

6. Write on a piece of paper or post-it note the words "For God's Purposes". Put it somewhere where you will see it every time you spend money this week. Be prepared to talk about how you are changing your spending and giving habits next week..

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Notes are available online at themeetinghouse.ca/teaching