

Money and Your Church



“Every time I turn around they have their hand out!” Have you ever heard this comment with regards to your Church and money? We all know it’s not true, but society has convinced us that we are projecting this image.

To overcome this stereotype, many Churches have taken drastic steps. Some specifically ask visitors NOT to give an offering when the plate is passed. Others have divorced themselves from taking an offering entirely and just place a “collection box” in the narthex. Their intentions are good. We all want to draw people to Christ through our Churches. We all want newcomers to feel valued for who they are and not what they’re able to contribute financially.

However, the consequences of these good intentions are huge - and severe. When we disregard the offering and stewardship education, we stymie Christian growth and deplete our resources. In fact, we are about to “give birth” to the third generation of believers who don’t know about stewardship.

Here’s the “kicker” - According to George Barna, less than seven percent of the un-churched believe the Church just wants them for their money. What this means, then, is that we’ve molded our Church image around money – Money has *not* molded our Church image.

People generally aren’t afraid of money. They hate to earn it, love to spend it, and they just want to be sure that when they GIVE it, it’s for something that’s important to them. How often we hear about a family member taking on a cause and raising millions to cure the disease that took the life of their loved one. That’s because it *matters* to them.

The Church must be important to – and matter to people. We must help them understand that giving is an expression of their love for God. Giving is an integral part of worship. It’s not intended to pay the cost of operating the church building. When we “water down”, ignore or even minimize the act of “lifting one’s offering up to the Lord”, we leave a gap in the lives of both the believer and the non-believer. Sadly, they are left to their own resources to fill that gap with something else.

When it comes to money and your Church, please speak the truth in love. Talk about money in Sunday School, Bible Study and Worship. Share how giving is an act of worship and of love. Express the good intention of making Christ and the Church matter to everybody! Let’s change this thing!