

Money for Widows, the Homeless, Missionaries, and Social Causes

Questions Christians Ask

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Christians are gracious, kind, merciful, and caring, having a desire to help people in need. God gives us guidelines for giving so that people can't take advantage of our generous nature.

- People believe that Christians and churches exist to give money to whoever asks.
- They also have a communist ideology that says if you have more than someone else, you should give what you have to those who have less than you.
- They believe the way to show love is to give your money to them. That is not biblical.

PROVIDING FOR WIDOWS: 1 Tim 5:3-14

Vs 3 “Honour widows that are widows indeed.” Many widows are in need, but they don't qualify to be supported by the church unless their deeds merit it.

Vs 4 “But if any widow have children or nephews...” She doesn't qualify to be supported by the church if she has children or nephews who ought to take care of her.

5-7 If she is living a worldly life, the church cannot support her.

Vs 8 Husbands, you ought to make sure your wife will be taken care when you die.

Vs 9 Widows under 60-years-old cannot be taken in by the church. Younger women can remarry.

“... having been the wife of one man.” If a woman had more than one husband, she is disqualified.

Vs 10 “...if she have diligently followed every good work.” A church must be able to verify a widow's godly life of service to others.

11-12 “¹¹ But the younger widows refuse...” They won't remain a widow. They'll “cast off their first faith” and remarry.

Vs 13 Young widows would end up being idle if the church took care of them. The church should not give money to idle people. Idle people will gossip and tell tales.

Vs 14 Younger women should marry, bear children, and guide the house.

GIVING TO THE HOMELESS: 1 John 3:16-17

“But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need...”

There are 3 qualifiers for giving in this verse:

1. It must be your brother (a born-again Christian).
 - a. The Church takes care of Christians and lets the world take care of the world.
2. You must be able to SEE their needs.
 - a. They would have to be an active part of your church family for you to observe their condition. You would know the reasons for their current state.
3. It must be an actual need, not just something they would like to have.
 - a. This need resulted through no fault of their own (neglect, laziness, poor decisions).

GIVING TO SOCIAL CAUSES: Luke 9:59-60

“Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead.”

- Very simply, there are millions of unsaved people who can give to social causes.
- There are very few people on Earth who can proclaim the gospel (unsaved people can't do it).
 - Christians' money should be reserved for the furtherance of the gospel, not social or humanitarian organizations.

GIVING TO MISSIONARIES

- We must be careful when deciding to support a missionary. Learn what you can about them as a family and about their service for the Lord and the work they aim to do on the mission field.
- Missionary families are expected to live on the money that they raise to go to the mission field.
 - They should not expect to get extra money for incidentals.
 - Don't let missionaries take advantage of your “love offerings.”

Deut 25:4 **“Thou shalt not muzzle the ox when he treadeth out *the corn*.”** The beast that works for you should be fed by you. (This verse is referenced in the next two passages).

1 Tim 5:17-18 **“The labourer *is* worthy of his reward.”** If somebody is willing to make sacrifices to go somewhere and serve the Lord, they ought to be given what they need to do that work.

1 Cor 9:6-10 A man that ministers the gospel to people ought to be rewarded by those same people. He should be allowed to eat **“of the milk of the flock”** (vs 7).

Exodus 22:5 Your ox should not **“feed in another man's field.”**

- The man who ministers to you should be supported by you, not by another man who is not benefitting from his ministry.
- Eventually (3-5 years) a missionary should have enough people in his flock to be able to support him without need of outside funding (from another man's field).
- If a missionary is receiving more money than the Christians in his sending church, that indicates there is a problem.