

Hebrews 7.4-5

Givers and Receivers

There is a relationship established between the giver and the receiver, between the gift given and the gift applied. It is a nuanced relationship and needs some thought. We considered the privilege of being God's people last week, but there is also privilege in the service of God, both in the service directly in occupations of Kingdom labor, and in the participation in that labor through acts of support. In other words, HOW you give, and how you think about the giving matters as much as what you give. There is submission worked into giving, not submission to the person in our setting, but submission to Him who is represented and to the Kingdom which is the ultimate goal of all. This submission must then also apply to those who lead, to those who are the ones supported by the gifts.

I. PRIVILEGE AND AUTHORITY AS WORSHIP

The right use of privilege and authority are acts of worship

- A. We aim others to God
- B. We acknowledge His authority and wisdom when we submit to His authority in the exercise of ours
- C. We are ourselves blessed in the blessing

Hebrews 6.10-12

II. DUTY MUST BE EMBRACED

Opportunities for duty ought to be embraced, not rebelled against

- A. We are blessed in our labor

Ecclesiastes 2:24 (NKJV)

²⁴ Nothing is better for a man than that he should eat and drink, and that his soul should enjoy good in his labor. This also, I saw, was from the hand of God.

- B. We demonstrate the greatness of the God we serve

1Thessalonians 2.10-12

- C. We demonstrate the greatness of the kingdom we are advancing
1. The kingdom is the manifestation of the King
 2. His greatness is reflected in ITS greatness
- D. We demonstrate the extravagant gifts to the church which are represented in those who serve and labor for the Kingdom with their whole lives.
1. Honoring those who serve is how we honor God FOR them
 2. Remember that God is the one who places people in positions of service.
 3. He gifts for His specific purposes, and according to His determined end
 4. Thus, the servant himself IS the gift of God,

Ephesians 4.11-16

III. GODS PURPOSE IS HOLY

When God's specific ground for the use of consecrated things ends, the things themselves become worthless, or even worse, a snare to idolatry

- A. The money is not a sacred thing, it is no different in substance than that which is still in your hand
- B. It is a sacred thing when it is in sacred use
 - 1. The purpose to which is set sanctifies it
 - 2. The value is in the use to which it is put
- C. Many churches fall prey to the idea that having money is itself the goal. To make sure that we have enough is not the goal. To honor God in how we use it, that is the goal.
- D. Not foolishly, but purposefully.
- E. Not wastefully, but intentionally
- F. Not fearfully or with reservations, but with joy and excited anticipation of what God will do

IV. CARE AND HONOR

The care which the church gives reflects the honor and love of God -

2Corinthians 9.6-15

- A. Those who receive are honored
- B. Those who give are honored
- C. The gift itself is honored
- D. The purpose of God is honored
- E. Those who give must also give honor in the giving
 - 1. Not grumbling
 - 2. Not complaining
 - 3. Not pretending, asserting or insinuating that those who serve ought not be supported
 - 4. Not pretending that they have some sort of authority over the use of what has been given over.

V. HUMILITY IN SERVICE

Those who serve the Lord **MUST** receive what God gives with humility and grace. They must understand that God calls them to **SERVE**, **NOT** to be served

Matthew 20.25-28

- A. Not grumble for more
- B. Not pretend that God owes them
- C. Not refuse His care
- D. Not refuse to care for those entrusted and the work committed to their care
- E. Not live in fleshly indulgence and extravagance
- F. Not live in careless ruin

VI. COMMANDED TO RECEIVE

The Levites had a command to receive the tithe...

- A. The sovereign choice of God is the only difference...
 1. The Levites were not better
 2. They were not special in the sense of more talented or smarter
 3. The Levites were chosen in the choosing of Moses

- B. those who have a commandment have a duty to fulfill it,
- C. Those who have a commandment have an obligation to be content with the station God has given
- D. Those who have a commandment represent God Himself.