

THEOLOGY OF

Give

MISSION

**We exist to glorify God as gospel-centered disciples who...
Gather, Grow, Give, & Go**

FRAMEWORK

**Joining the mission through partnership (head)
Giving sacrificially, joyfully and genuinely (heart)
Giving of time, talents and treasures through serving and financial gifts (hands)**

WHY WE GIVE?

- **We give as a form of worship in response to the grace given to us in Jesus.**
- **We give back to Jesus what is ultimately His as we steward the gifts given to us.**
- **We give as we live out the gospel in serving others and supporting the work of the church.**

PARTNERSHIP

Acts 2:42-47

⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

The early church was defined by 1) biblical preaching, 2) intimate fellowship, 3) passionate worship, 4) sacrificial generosity, 5) observed ordinances, and 6) attractive evangelism. Similarly, Mission Church defines the church as a group of gospel-centered disciples (members) who follow Jesus, are being formed by Jesus, and fish for Jesus.

Mission Church refers to its members as partners. Partners at Mission 1) have trusted in Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior and have followed through with believer's baptism (Going Public) (Romans 10:9-10; Matthew 28:19-20); 2) commit to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission represented in our vision and mission (Matthew 22:37-39, 28:19-20); 3) commit to gathering corporately for biblical preaching and passionate worship (Hebrews 10:23-25); 4) commit to growing spiritually through intimate fellowship (Hebrews 10:19-25; 1 John 1:5-7); 5) commit to sacrificial generosity by giving of their time, talents, and treasures (1 Peter 4:10); 6) commit to attractive evangelism by going missionally as the Lord leads (Hebrews 10:24-25; Ephesians 4:15-16; 2 Corinthians 9:7; Acts 1:8); and 7) commit to praying for and supporting the leadership of the church while receiving and being under the spiritual care of elders and church leaders who shepherd them (Hebrews 13:7, 17; 1 Peter 5:1, 5; Acts 20:28).

The partnership process at Mission consists of attendance at a class and participation in an elder interview.

GIVING

1 Peter 4:10-11

¹⁰ As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; ¹¹ whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Giving is motivated by grace and gratitude. We steward our time, talents, and treasures genuinely, sacrificially, and consistently with gratitude because we are the recipients of the greatest gift the world has ever known—the love, grace, and mercy of Jesus Christ. “Christ’s grace defines, motivates, and puts in perspective our giving. Our giving is a reflexive response to the grace of God in our lives. It comes out of the transforming work of Christ in us.”¹ (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Giving is gospel-centered. God has equipped every believer with spiritual gifts in order to serve His church and one another. Giving is part of the gospel message of sharing Christ to a lost world. It’s how we spread the message of hope. (Ephesians 5:25; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Ephesians 2:10; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7; Galatians 5:13; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 8:7; Matthew 6:20-21)

Giving is worship. Just as we worship God through singing and praise, we also worship Him when we give of our finances, time and talents. Worshiping through giving honors and glorifies God. (John 3:16; 2 Corinthians 8:8-9)

Giving is stewardship. Since God created all things, everything and everyone belongs to Him. Similarly, anything that we possess or have attained has been given to us by the Lord. Our time, spiritual gifts, and finances belong to Him. It’s what we do with those gifts that matters. “A steward’s job is to find out what the owner wants done with his assets, then carry out his will.”² (Psalm 24:1; Luke 21:1-4; Deuteronomy 8:18; 1 Peter 4:10)

Giving is a responsibility. God instructs us to support the ministry of the church through consistent, generous giving from a genuine heart of cheerfulness. The amount of time and finances we give is a personal matter of prayer between the person and God. Giving freely from a heart of love is the highest level of relationship. (1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 1 Timothy 6:18; 2 Corinthians 8:2-5; 2 Corinthians 9:7)

Giving is a spiritual gift. By His grace, God gives each of us time and money to be used for Him. But we also see in the Bible where God does give some a spiritual gift of giving more financially. “God entrusts me with this money not to build my kingdom on earth, but to build His kingdom in heaven. God prospers me not to raise my standard of living, but to raise my standard of giving.”³ (Romans 12:4-8; Deuteronomy 16:17; Luke 6:38)

FOOTNOTES

^{1,2,3} Alcorn, Randy. *The Treasure Principle: Unlocking the Secret of Joyful Giving*. (Multnomah Publishers, 2005).

RESOURCES

- *Church Membership: How the World Knows Who Represents Jesus* by Jonathan Leeman
- *What Is a Healthy Church Member?* by Thabiti M. Anyabwile
- *I Am a Church Member: Discovering the Attitude that Makes the Difference* by Thom S. Rainer
- *The Treasure Principle: Unlocking the Secret of Joyful Giving* by Randy Alcorn