



# *Welcome to Sierra Community Church*

Text

*“Be still, and know that I am God” -Psalm 46:10*

8/11/13



**Sundays**

**9am**

**10:45am**

**6:30pm**

**Forgiveness  
Humility  
Authenticity  
Community  
Service  
Grace  
His Word**

**God's  
Ingredients  
For Growth**





**Rejecting  
Greed.  
Growing  
in Generosity.**

In our culture, a man's checkbook is no one's business but his own... Any time you find yourself insisting that some part of your spiritual life is nobody else's business, it may be a warning sign that you are trying to hide something. *-Nicole Alexander*

**Rejecting Greed. Growing in Generosity.**



# God has LOTS to say about money!

- ▶ Jesus Talked more about money than Heaven or Hell... combined!
- ▶ Other than the "Kingdom of God", it's His most common subject.
- ▶ 11 of the 39 parables are about money.

**Rejecting Greed. Growing in Generosity.**

*What's fascinating is that as our financial needs are supplied, our appetite for money tends to increase rather than diminish. When we're physically hungry, we fill our stomachs, then back away from the table. Not so with money. It seems the more we get, the more we want. -"Honest to God" pg.154*



*Bill Hybels*



# 1. Greed can be COSTLY.

- ▶ The Foolish Builder. -Luke 12:13-21

*<sup>19</sup> I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."<sup>20</sup> "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you <sup>21</sup> "This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."*

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# 1. Greed can be COSTLY.

- ▶ The Foolish Builder. -*Luke 12:13-21*
- ▶ The Rich Man & Lazarus -*Luke 16:19-31*

*<sup>19</sup>“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. <sup>20</sup>At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores <sup>21</sup>and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table.*

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# 1. Greed can be COSTLY.

- ▶ The Foolish Builder. -Luke 12:13-21
- ▶ The Rich Man & Lazarus -Luke 16:19-31
- ▶ The Rich Young Ruler. -Mark 10:17-29

*<sup>23</sup>Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup>It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."*

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# *“What Not to Do With Your Money”*

- Dan Wilvers 5/30/10

## 1. Money is a tool and test.

- a. It's a *TOOL* to be used for God's purposes in your life.
- b. Money *TEST* our character, values, priorities, and responsibilities.

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## 2. Being wealthy is not a sin.

*For the love of  
money is a root of  
all kinds of evil.*

*-1Timothy 6:10*

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## 2. Being wealthy is not a sin.

- ▶ Wealthy People in the Bible: *Abraham, King Solomon, Job, Joseph of Arimathea, Lydia, The Ethiopian Treasurer, Philemon*
- ▶ *Paul's work was supported by others generosity.*
- ▶ *Jesus and his disciples traveled with a money keeper (Judas).*
- ▶ *Jesus and His friends took advantage of an "upper room" at a wealthy persons house.*
- ▶ *Meaningful work is always celebrated in the Bible.*

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### 3. We were designed to be generous!

We were created in God's image and likeness. God is a generous giver! -Gen. 1:27

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. -John 3:16*

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## 4. Three Keys for financial generosity.

1. Like everything else our money belongs to God. We are God's asset managers! *-Luke 16:11*

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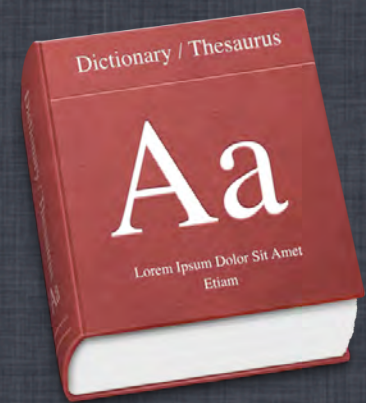
# steward

-A person who manages another's property or estate.

-A person whose responsibility it is to take care of something.

# asset manager

-A person responsible for controlling or administering a useful or valuable thing, person, or quality.



## 4. Three Keys for financial generosity.

1. Like everything else our money belongs to God. We are God's asset managers! -*Luke 16:11*

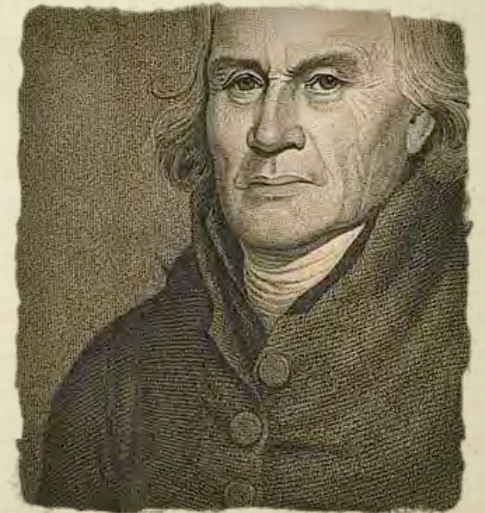
2. Practice self denial. -*Titus 2:12*

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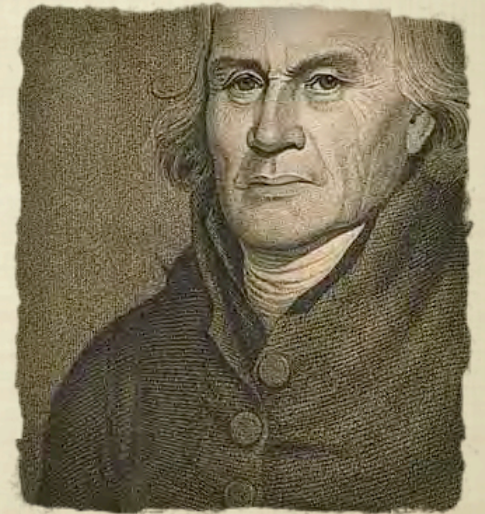
Wesley began to limit his expenses so that he would have more money to give to the poor. He records that one year his income was 30 pounds and his living expenses 28 pounds, so he had 2 pounds to give away.

The next year his income doubled, but he still managed to live on 28 pounds, so he had 32 pounds to give.



*John Wesley*

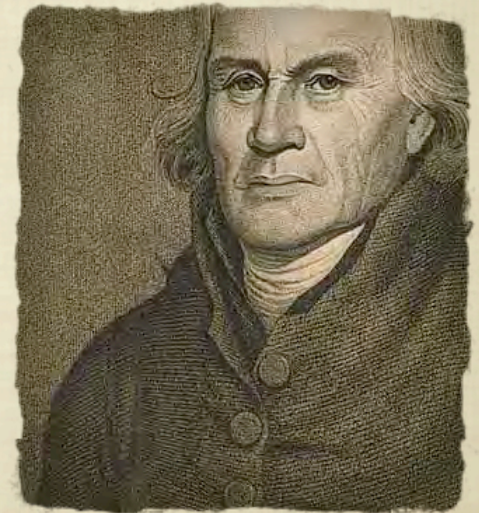
In the third year, his income jumped to 90 pounds. Instead of letting his expenses rise with his income, he kept them to 28 pounds and gave away 62 pounds. In the fourth year, he received 120 pounds. As before, his expenses were 28 pounds, so his giving rose to 92 pounds.



*John Wesley*

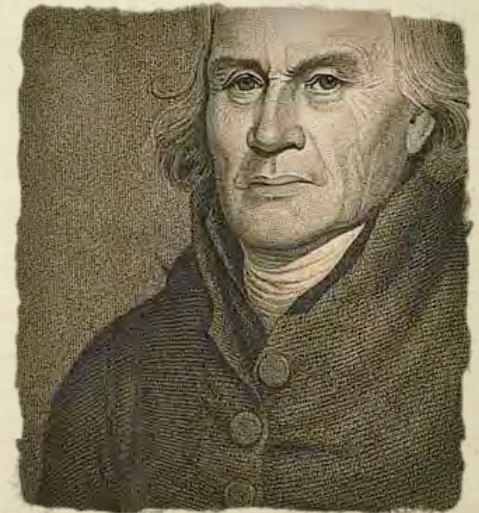


Wesley felt that the Christian should not merely tithe but give away all extra income once the family and creditors were taken care of. He believed that with increasing income, what should rise is not the Christian's standard of living but the standard of giving.



*John Wesley*

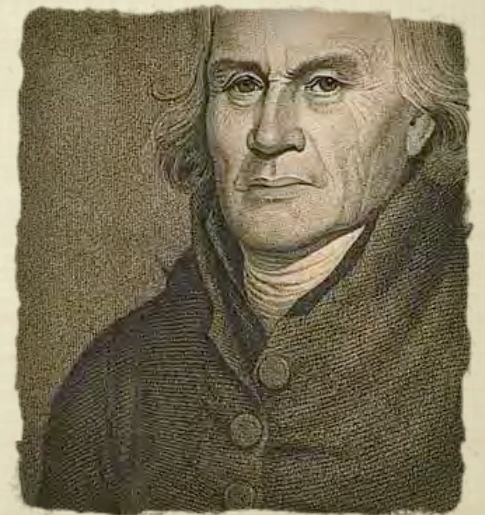
This practice, begun at Oxford, continued throughout his life. Even when his income rose into the thousands of pounds sterling, he lived simply and he quickly gave away his surplus money. In fact one year his income was a little over 1400 pounds!



*John Wesley*



*He believed that with increasing income, what should rise is not the Christian's standard of living but the standard of giving.*



*John Wesley*

## 4. Three Keys for financial generosity.

1. Like everything else our money belongs to God. We are God's asset managers! *-Luke 16:11*
2. Practice self denial. *-Titus 2:12*
3. Have a budget with generosity built in.

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## 4. Three Keys for financial generosity.

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bel  
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*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

2.  
3.

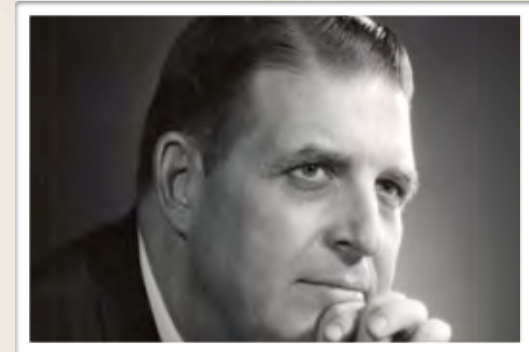
-2 Corinthians 9:7

in.

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## 5. From generous to sacrificial.

“The American people are a generous people but they are not *sacrificial* and God demands sacrifice.”



Carl F. Henry

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## 5. From generous to sacrificial.

- ▶ The widows offering.

*"<sup>44</sup> she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on." -Mark 12:41-44*

- ▶ Jesus became poor to give us a rich life.

*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. -2Corinthians 8:9*

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