

Common Questions

shedding light on questions about life and the bible

Should I give
away 10% of
my income?

Seeking God's insight on our finances.

Mark

10:17-23

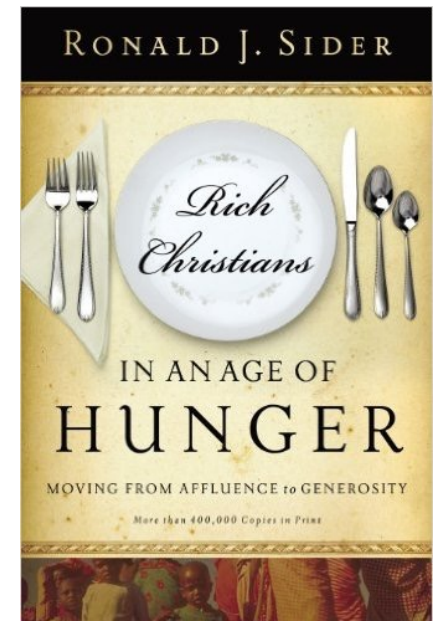
The State of Church Giving



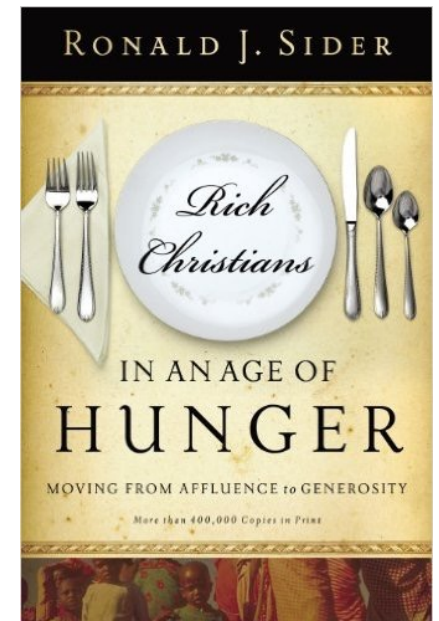
empty tomb[®], inc.

An analysis of church giving patterns in the United States, found that Christians only give **2.43 percent**.

"For Christians in the richest nation in history to be giving only 2.43 percent of their income.. is not just stinginess, it is biblical disobedience —blatant sin. We have become so seduced by the pervasive consumerism and materialism of our culture that we hardly notice the ghastly disjunction between our incredible wealth and the agonizing poverty in the world.



Such behavior flatly contradicts what the Bible teaches about God, justice, and wealth. We should be giving not 2.4 percent but 10 percent, 15 percent, even 25 to 35 percent or more to kingdom work. Most of us could give 20 percent and not be close to poverty."



Two Factors to Consider:

1. If you don't believe that you are wealthy, there is a good chance you'll assume that the Bible is NOT addressing you when it talks about wealth.

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"WITH GREAT
POWER COMES
GREAT
RESPONSIBILITY"

-UNCLE BEN, TO PETER PARKER (SPIDERMAN)

Two Factors to Consider:

2. The simplest answer may be that people are just greedy.

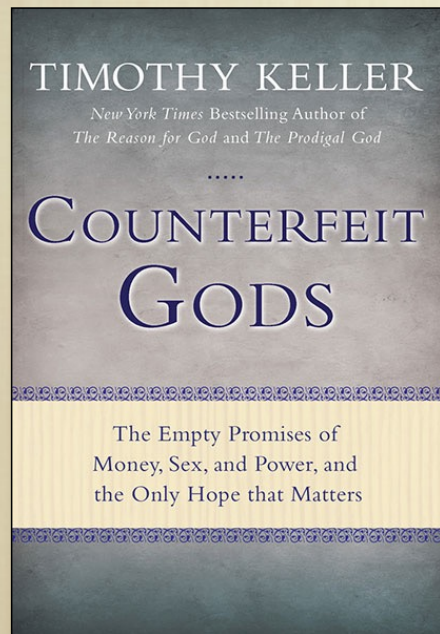
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What's fascinating is that as our financial needs are supplied, our appetite for money tends to increase rather than diminish. When we're physically hungry, we fill our stomachs, then back away from the table. Not so with money. It seems the more we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



Bill Hybels

As a pastor I've had people come to me and confess that they struggle with almost every kind of sin. Almost. I cannot recall anyone ever coming to me and saying, "I spend too much money on myself. I think



my greedy lust for money is harming my family, my soul, and people around me."

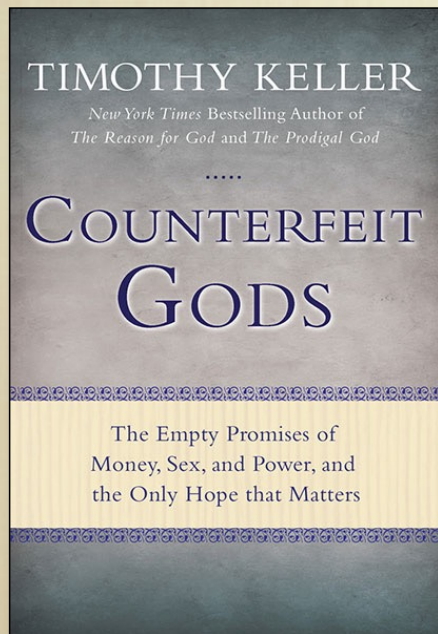
-*"Counterfeit Gods" pg.52*

“Jesus warns people far more often about greed than about sex, yet almost no one thinks they are guilty of it.

Therefore we should all begin with the

hypothesis that “this could easily be a problem for me.”

-“*Counterfeit Gods*” pg.53



Then Jesus said to them, “Watch out! *Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.*”. -Luke 12:15



For of this you can be sure: No
immoral, impure or *greedy person*—
such a person is an idolater—has any
inheritance in the kingdom of Christ
and of God. -Ephesians 5:5



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.

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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“What Not to Do With Your Money”

- Dan Wilvers 5/30/10

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“What Not to Do With Your Money”

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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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We were designed to be generous!

1. 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

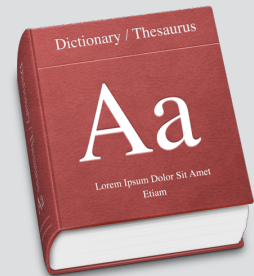
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Four Keys for financial generosity

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

asset manager

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



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Four Keys for financial generosity

2. Practice self denial.

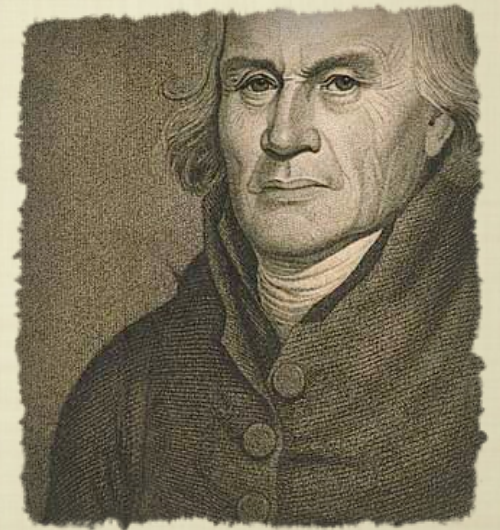
**All things are lawful, but
not all things are profitable**

-1 Corinthians 10:23

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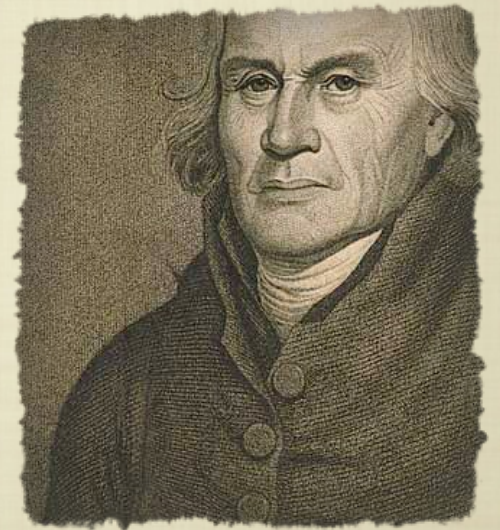
Wesley began to limit his expenses so that he would have more money to give to the poor. He records that one year his income was 30 pounds and his living expenses 28 pounds, so he had 2 pounds to give away.

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



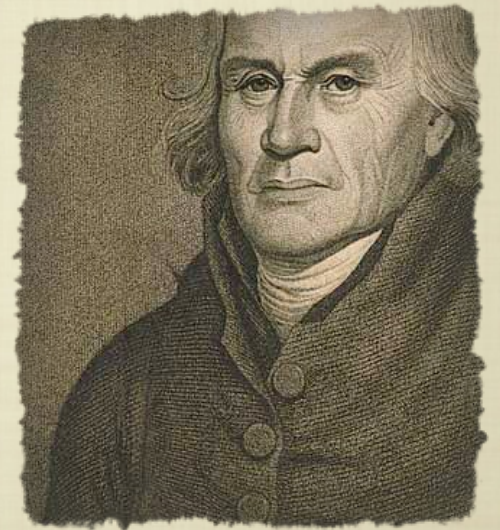
John Wesley

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.



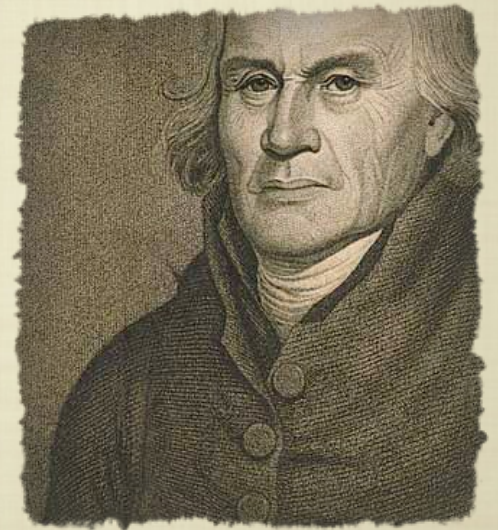
John Wesley

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.



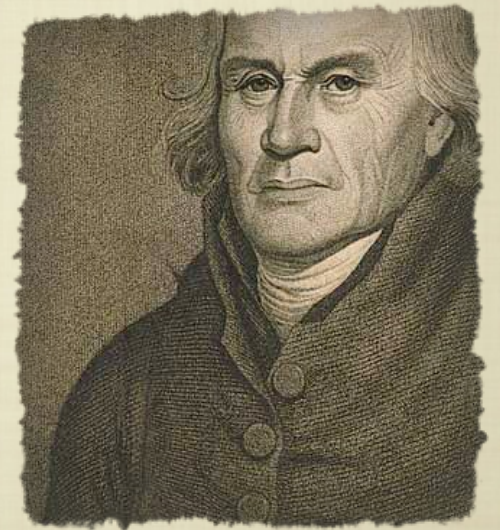
John Wesley

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

Four Keys for financial generosity

3. Have a budget with generosity built in.

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 Corinthians 9:7

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Four Keys for financial generosity

4. Celebrate the work God allows you to participate in!



Four Keys for financial generosity

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Four Keys for financial generosity

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