

Here are principles of Christian giving from 2 Corinthians 8 & 9.

*We want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. (8:1)*

**principle:**

*You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. (8:9)*

**principle:**

*If the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have. (8:12)*

**principle:**

*Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. (9:6)*

**principle:**

*Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (9:7)*

**principle:**

*And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work ... he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the store of your righteousness. (9:8,10)*

**principle:**

*Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ. (9:13)*

**principle:**

*Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! (9:15)*

**principle:**

What makes Christian giving *Christian*?

What specific acts of giving does “Christian giving” include?

What types of personal situations may damage Christian giving?

How might each of those personal situations be addressed?

What potential conflicts do you see between fund-raising and any principles on the other side?

Let's discuss the following questions (next page) which were asked by class participants at the beginning of the study.

----- What / how much to give?

*How should I feel about the amount I have given?*

*Should I be feeling guilty about not giving more?*

*I would like to give more, but am I wrong in not trusting more in God's promises? Being on a fixed income, it is hard to give what I would like to give.*

----- Stewardship balance

*Is there a possibility of giving too much? In the story of "A Bad Example," Mr. Clinton gives until he has no way to support his family. He does this out of a true love of his fellow man. There was no ego in it. It was purely out of love. Could we say that this was too much and maybe even wrong?*

----- Planning to give

*Is deciding on your offering once a year and making that automated once a month okay?*

*What about online giving / automatic withdrawals for church offerings? Are we still going through the heart and thought processes God would have us go through when we give in those ways?*

----- Related issues

*Do we (the WELS) have any outreach to the Jewish church?*