

# **Prodigality without Pressure**

*Ray Stedman*

## I. Introduction.

A. Text: I Corinthians 16:1-2.

B. Paul's gospel came directly from Jesus Christ. (I Corinthians 15)

## II. The perpetual principles for Christian giving.

A. The motivation of an inward impulse.

1. The Christian is part of a worldwide revolution.
2. The fellowship of the changed heart is to be the supreme motivation.
3. The shared life is also a sharing life.
4. Christians ought to give because of the impulse of an inward life not outward obligation.
5. Giving is a mark of Christianity.

B. The confrontation of an outward appeal.

1. Paul assumes that since there is a need, this need is argument enough for people to give.
2. It is wrong to teach people to give their money without knowing where it is going-- there is a need for the knowledge of needs.
3. Authentic needs.
  - a. The needs of a local ministry.
  - b. The material needs of those around us.

C. The demonstration of a theological conviction.

1. Giving ought to arise out of a theological conviction.
2. This should not arise of the pressure of a personality.

## III. The procedure of giving.

A. Giving ought to be consistent and with regularity.

B. Giving must be personal--there is a universal inclusiveness to the matter of giving. Money is only valuable as an expression of life and love.

C. Giving is to be premeditated.

D. Giving is to be proportional, as God has prospered a person.

**Application questions:**

1. What has kept you from giving in the past?

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2. Which of Paul's reasons do you find most compelling to give?

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3. Spend some time putting a plan together for future giving. Is this an area where God can stretch you in?

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