

# HOW MUCH SHOULD A CHRISTIAN GIVE?

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**N**ew Testament believers are to support a gospel minister, who Paul defines (for the purposes of financial support) as one who preaches the gospel, so as to live from the gospel; the gospel minister focuses his time and energy on gospel ministry.

Supporting a building is not a requirement of Christian giving. A permanent facility for Christian activities is a convenience; in some countries Christians meet in the open air, or in members' homes. If, as in more developed countries, the concept of Christian worship necessitates a physical structure, the pastor continues to take precedence, not the building.

When Christians add a building to their list of obligations, they have obligated themselves to give above the needs of their pastor(s) who lives for and from the gospel.

The same principle guides the Christian obligation to those persons known as "council members." These persons are not Levites. The Christian church does not



have a specialized Levite type group of people to attend to the needs of pastors and buildings. This is because every believer, not just staff, is responsible to support their local church ministry.

The New Testament does not state an amount, leaving it to the spiritual maturity and conviction of the believer. The Bible provides examples of giving, which the believer is to use as a guide. Some believers may desire more specific answers. Therefore firstly, ask God the Holy Spirit for conviction - pray about it, listen for answers. Second, meditate on Scriptures. Think about the principles of New Testament giving, what they mean, how they can be applied, how they fit into one's Christian life. Third, ask the counsel of more mature believers who believe in, understand, and practice New Testament giving.

Decide on the necessary steps that need to be taken and be faithful to it. Be willing to adjust as financial circumstances change, for ill or for good. Always think of the aspect of giving in terms of the needs of the pastor and the church. Be sure to give regularly and willingly. Trust the Lord to provide and do not be afraid to give generously.



***“Hey, I would like to know more.”***

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