

Introduction

1. As Christians, we are commanded to give ([1 Cor. 16:1-2](#)).
 - a. The sheep give ([Mt. 25:31-40](#)).
 - b. The goats do not give ([Mt. 25:41-45](#)).
 - c. We are expected to be givers based upon the judgment received ([Mt. 25:46](#)).
2. When it comes to my giving, what is my motive?
 - a. The right motive **and** the right action are needed to be acceptable to God (cf. [Jn. 4:24](#)).
3. A motive is defined as “something (as a need or desire) that causes a person to act” (Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary).

I. Some Improper Motives

1. Grudgingly ([2 Cor. 9:7](#)).
 - a. The English word **grudgingly** means “done, given, or allowed unwillingly, reluctantly, or sparingly” (Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary).
 - b. grudgingly (*ek* G1537 preposition *lype* G3077 noun) meaning “out of sorrow, heaviness, or grief.”
 - c. The Jews had this problem in Malachi’s day and they were rebuked severely by God through His prophet ([Mal. 1](#); cf. [Mal. 3:14](#)).
2. Personal glorification ([Mt. 6:1-4](#)).
 - a. To “take heed” is “to be in a state of alert, be concerned about, care for, take care” (BDAG 879).
 - b. Alms (*eleemosyne* G1654 noun) are closely connected with the concept of mercy or pity shown in giving to others who are in need.
 - c. To “be seen” translates *theaomai* where we get our word “theatrical” from.
 - d. ([Mt. 6:3](#)): “let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth” is a figure of speech condemning boasting about individual acts of goodness.
 - e. If our motive is personal glorification in giving then that is, at best, all that we will get.

- f. Ananias and Sapphira had this improper motive when they gave and it cost them not only their physical lives but their spiritual lives ([Ac. 5:1-11](#)).

II. Some Proper Motives

- 1. To express love and gratitude.
 - a. Certain women showed their love and appreciation for Jesus by serving Him with their goods ([Lk. 8:1-3](#)).
 - b. Consider Mary who anointed Jesus ([Jn. 12:1-8](#)).
 - c. Without love, our giving profits us nothing ([1 Cor. 13:3](#)).
- 2. To minister to the needs of people in and out of the church ([Gal. 6:10](#)).
 - a. The Grecian widows ([Ac. 6:1-7](#)).
 - b. The church at Antioch ([Ac. 11:27-30](#)).

Conclusion

- 1. When it comes to my giving, what is my motive?
 - a. It should not be grudgingly or for personal glorification.
 - b. Instead, it should be to express love and gratitude and to minister to the needs of people in and out of the church.