

Guidelines for Giving

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7)

How much should we give?

Paul's answer to that is simple: imitate Christ, *'though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty may become rich. (2 Cor 8:9)'* Our giving should be an expression of our heartfelt gratitude for what God has done for us. Traditionally, a guide based on OT teaching was 10% of the believer's income. This comes from God's command to the Israelites to give a tenth (the tithe) of what they earned or what they produced to cover the work of the church and the care of the poor and needy.

What does that mean for today?

The 10% rule is still appropriate, although, this is not to be imposed as a legalistic requirement. The New Testament calls us to "imitate Christ", which is both less specific and more demanding! It leaves you free to give what you can, and to be generous just as God was generous to us in Christ Jesus. 10% is a helpful guide, and a good starting point. What is important is that you set aside a regular amount in keeping with your income (1 Cor 16:2). Whatever amount you choose, do it wholeheartedly and generously (2 Cor 9:7-8). We believe giving as an act of worship.

Give me some good other reasons why!

- Because the Bible tells us that giving is part of our thanks to God
- Because it will support the work of telling people about Jesus
- Because the work of this church depends directly on our giving

I'm not used to regular giving — If I start now it will wreck my budget.

There's no doubt that regular giving is a challenge, especially if your income is very low, or if your commitments are very high. However, now is the time to set some goals. This month I will give.... %. Next month I'll increase that to %, so that in ... month's time I will have established a regular giving pattern.

What do I do when my spouse is not a Christian and doesn't support giving to the Church?

When only one of the adults in a family unit is a Christian and/or part of the church community, the amount available to give may be severely limited. We understand. Make it a matter of prayer and set aside an amount that is practical and possible in your situation.

Once you decide on regular giving, it's easy.

Every pay day, and before you do anything else, take out your regular contribution and put it in a safe place. Alternatively make arrangements for a regular direct debit with your bank. Once you make it regular, you'll be committed to your goal and the church will receive regular income. You won't have to look through your purse or wallet for something that isn't there, you just give the contribution you've already set aside. Easy.

Giving with Vision

One of the major reasons for you to give generously is because you support the mission and vision of Westside. We're so thankful to see how God is working in our congregation. Our prayer is that more and more people will come to know the Lord, and that together we will be brought to maturity in Jesus Christ. Our desire is to see people transformed - spiritually, socially, emotionally and relationally, and your financial support makes that vision possible.

Will someone from the church know how much I'm giving?

No. One of the principles by which our church operates is that what you give is between you and God. No-one else will keep a record of it.

How do I give my money to Westside?

There are various ways in which you can give:

- Arrange a *regular direct debit* from your bank account (see below for the church's account details).
- Request *envelopes* from our Deacons for regular contributions and place in the first offering bag.
- Place money in the first *offering bag*, passed around during our Sunday morning services
- You can also give online through our Website: www.westsidechristianchurch.com.au

You may also give to various local and international ministries through the second collection held every Sunday. You can find out what these collections are for in our monthly newsletter. We would also like to encourage you to also give to the diaconate, which is a fund we use to help needy people in our local community as well as our church family (see below for diaconate account details).

At what age should I start to participate in giving?

Pretty much as soon as you start earning, including pocket money earned while you are young. It's a terrific habit to get into. Also the earlier you get into that habit, the easier it is to continue in it, and the easier it is to give cheerfully. (It also enables more of God's work to be done.) Anyone who receives a regular income should definitely be giving regularly.

I'm still confused. Who can I talk to?

Pastor Josh or one of our elders will be happy to talk with you.

Saying "Thanks" by giving

Think of giving as an expression of gratitude to God for all that he has done and continues to do in Jesus.

The following is a two-week Bible reading plan about giving. Try it out.

Day 1	Matthew 6:19-24	Day 2	Matthew 6:25-34	Day 3	Malachi 3:7-15
Day 4	1 Corinthians 16:1-2	Day 5	2 Corinthians 9:1-6	Day 6	2 Corinthians 9:7-9
Day 7	2 Corinthians 9:10-15	Day 8	2 Corinthians 8:1-5	Day 9	2 Corinthians 8:6-9
Day 10	2 Corinthians 8:10-15	Day 11	Galatians 6:6-10	Day 12	1 Timothy 6:9-10
Day 13	Hebrews 13:15-16	Day 14	Haggai 1		

Westside's Bank Details:

Account Name: Westside Christian Church Inc

For First Collection: BSB 633-000 a/c no 129453353

For Diaconate: BSB 633-000 a/c no 141379883

We'd like to encourage you to think about your giving to Westside Christian Church. Sure, one person's situation is different to another, but there's one thing that we all share: God's call for us to be positive and generous in supporting the ministry and mission of the church. We hope you will find this brochure helpful. If there are any questions at all, please contact someone in the church leadership, or Pastor Josh by mobile: 0423 814 700; email: pastor@westsidechristianchurch.com.au, or through our website: www.westsidechristianchurch.com.au