

Stewardship Survey Question 10 Responses

QUESTION 10

For you, what is the biggest obstacle to encouraging individual stewardship and financial giving to the Lord?

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- Things that have been taught that do not line up with Gods word and folks that have been in churches were the finances were not managed appropriately.
 - Most of our people are retired and on a fixed income and are giving already.
 - People's time to attend and learn.
 - I am the financial secretary of my church and don't feel that I really have a platform for addressing the congregation on the importance of financially supporting the church.
 - Lack of finances
 - New members not receiving sbc training on that and other doctrinal topics.
 - Time
 - People not considering tithing important
 - Current hardships, including exorbitant and rapid cost increases in homeowner's insurance
 - They give only when they are convicted about it.
 - Having people view me as trying to benefit myself or appear greedy or as a money grubber.

- The cost of living is so high some of them can't give lots more.
- Seniors who have not learned the importance that tithing is a form of obedience and Worship.
- Preachers do not like to preach on giving. I also think the people need to see the pastor put his money in the offering plate. Lead by example.
- There continues to be a hesitancy to talk about money. If the text supports a discussion of giving, our staff deals with the topic, but it is rare a sermon will focus singularly on giving. As the administrator and small group leader, I discuss the importance of obedience and that includes tithing discussions.
- We have none besides being intentional
- I serve college students who presently have little to give. It's difficult for them to imagine what life will be like after college and how their giving will change from being a student to a graduate.
- My wife and I personally tithe and give offerings in various ways
- To prioritize giving back to the Lord. Some of our families give God whatever is left over in their finances. We continue to teach biblical stewardship with our church families.
- They hear but do not listen. Their hearts are not convicting them to give. Especially while everthing is so expensive, including gas.
- LifeWay materials are inadequte. There should be a CP push/stewardship training/tithing emphases in all the materials produced for our congregations (New Believer/SS guides/etc.).
- I think people have gotten out of practice in financially giving to the Lord AND that unfortunately due to lack of intentional discipleship on the importance of financial giving, younger generations don't know how vital it is to the health of the church, but even more so, how vital it is to the health and growth of their trust and relationship with Christ.
- One income and struggle to make ends meet. We go a little further in debt every week.
- Younger couples are not giving
- I am building a stable church full of young families. most of my members are still in the infancy of their faith. They make plenty of money but have no clue how to

manage it. we have completely failed to teach the next generation financial stability and now the church is financially struggling because of it.

- Convincing a fiercely independent people who prioritize financial selfpreservation to be willing to trust God to use "His" money as He wills.
- We do not want church members or visitors to feel pressured to give outside of the Lord's calling, and we do not want visitors to have the perception that our church is all about money. Because of this, our pastor is hesitant to bring up giving in sermons or from the stage in front of the congregation.
- Distracting from main theme of the gospel to those either immature in faith or unbelievers by sounding like you are begging for money
- Younger people being faithful. I just preached a five sermon series on biblical stewardship and there was no significant change in our offerings. There is a lack of commitment to biblical giving among the younger generation.
- Most of our kids camps & youth events happen through donations & sponsorships
- No background in tithing from family unit. Economics.
- I just have not been able to get through to those under 30 about giving — there is some disconnect I just cannot seem to overcome
- We need to secure a Pastor and allow that to be part of his vision for our church.
- Currently we don't have a struggle. This season of the church is the most we've ever collected. Some of that is due to one family, but it is outside of that as well. We have new families who are starting to give. When we started having online giving because of the baptist foundation, and reading scripture every Sunday before tithes and offering (a different passage for every week) giving has gone up. God continues to bless us as we encourage people to give from where they are instead of a mandatory 10%.
- I am not the Pastor.
- People don't want to hear it.
- Lack of knowledge of how the church is financed through tithing.
- Fighting the appearance/reputation of being a minister who's only after people's money.
- We have lots of new members who are never taught about the importance of tithing.

- Commitments
- Making the time to cover this topic while also faithfully covering others
- Increasing trust in The Lord
- The lack and concern in giving.
- Our pastor does not reach out to our people. He will send a text occasionally. He does not follow up when people are sick or hurting. This impacts not only the giving but attendance and spiritual growth. Our deacons and other church leaders take on the role of ministry. However, the actions (or lack of action) of the pastor affect the way that people give financially and give of their time and talents.
- Our church has a endowment and young people do not give
- I preach a couple of sermons per year but discuss generosity and stewardship of all resources as the text of sermon directs. Use our events as an opportunity to encourage stewardship as what we can accomplish together. Then do a month of Global missions giving emphasis in December highlighting all areas of CP impact. We really don't have a hindrance
- Individuals who give don't agree with how the money is spent within the church. Some think it is wasted, so they chose to give less or not at all.
- Knowing how to approach it.
- It is just an uncomfortable conversation with new Christians.
- They are stuck in old ways and they like to have a reserve since they have been in places that they didn't know whether or not they had the funds for utilities for the next month
- The response to speaking on giving.
- Preaching and teaching on stewardship in a way that is truthful without being perceived as a "money preacher." No one has called me that, but I am sensitive because of the abuse that prosperity preachers have committed.
- People not knowing, realizing or acknowledging that giving is a biblical directive - and also, that charities such as United Way do not constitute giving to the Lord.