



THEOLOGY

OF GENEROSITY &
ADVANCEMENT



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INTRODUCTION

At CrossCity Christian Church we seek to advance the Kingdom. We believe that advancing the Kingdom, in Partnership with God, will result in seeing fully funded ministries both in and through CrossCity Christian Church.

We recognize that a goal of this magnitude requires immense amounts of resources. We desire the funds brought into this local church would be stewarded well and shared generously. We believe the funds are to be shared with the people of our local congregation, our communities, our nation, and our world through the ministries God entrusts to our care. We are eager to share with you what our church leadership believes about stewardship, generosity and giving and why we believe this is the foundation for moving forward.

Strictly speaking, advancement is moving forward, making progress. As a church, and as church leaders, we must have a God-inspired vision for what 'tomorrow' looks like. We want to know that any dollar brought into this local church will have a significant impact to reach an unsaved world with the hope of salvation. CrossCity Christian Church leaders, elders, and overseers have collectively agreed to a vision. Our vision is to make more and better disciples. We want everyone that feels called to CrossCity Christian Church to be a part of fulfilling that vision. Let's be frank, it requires money to fund big vision and see solid enlargement efforts. CrossCity Christian Church believes we must have a biblical perspective, taught through a discipleship lens to raise kingdom dollars for kingdom purposes. We believe this discipleship process of faith raising embraces the idea that stewardship and generosity should culminate with an inspired giving plan for everything in our lives, including our finances.

We want to share what we want for our givers, and what a win could look like if a giver were truly advancing the kingdom with their finances (whether big or small is not the matter...the matter is the heart.) Therefore, this is our way of providing definitions of a 'win' through a biblical lens. As in almost every area of life, the world produces a cheap imitation of what is right in God's creation - contemporary fundraising in church's has not been an exception. We seek to change that mindset for the givers entrusted to our care. Much of what we have seen practiced in today's world, and in the American Christian Church has not been grounded in the Word of God or spiritual truth. Instead, it is driven by whichever strategy produces the best financial outcome.

At CrossCity Christian Church we desire that our faith-raising efforts are built on a solid scriptural foundation and we have identified 4 foundational Biblical Truths upon which we have built our advancement philosophy and practices.

THE FOUR FOUNDATIONAL BIBLICAL TRUTHS

BIBLICAL TRUTH #1: GOD OWNS EVERYTHING AND NEEDS NOTHING

1. Supporting Scripture

a) God's Ownership:

- i) **Psalms 24:1**, The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it.

- ii) **Job 41:11**, Who has given to Me that I should repay him? Whatever is under the whole heaven is Mine.
 - iii) **Romans 11:36**, For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.
 - iv) **Revelation 4:11**, You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will [and for your pleasure] they were created and have their being.
 - v) **Psalms 89:11**, The heavens are Yours, the earth also is Yours; The world and all it contains, you have founded them.
- b) God's Need:
- i) **Acts 17:24-25**, The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things...
 - ii) **Psalms 50:10-12**, For every beast of the forest is Mine, The cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird of the mountains, and everything that moves in the field is Mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell you, For the world is Mine, and all it contains.
2. What this means:
- a) God's Kingdom never has a "need." There may however be "unfunded Kingdom opportunities". Such opportunities are where we, His people can choose to partner with Him.
 - b) But neither God nor His work ever needs anything.

BIBLICAL TRUTH #2: WE OWN NOTHING AND NEED EVERYTHING

1. Supporting Scripture

- a) **John 3:27**, A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven.
- b) **Ecclesiastes 5:15**, As he had come naked from his mother's womb, so will he return as he came. He will take nothing from the fruit of his labor that he can carry in his hand
- c) **Timothy 6:7**, For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either.
- d) **1 Corinthians 4:7**, For who regards you as superior? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?

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2. What this means:

- a) We are unable to contribute to the work that God is doing without Him providing us with something to contribute—life, health, time, abilities, resources, etc. Everything we are and everything we have is a gift from God.
- b) We can only return back to the Lord what has flowed from Him in the first place.

BIBLICAL TRUTH #3: GOD IS THE SOLE PROVIDER OF ALL RESOURCES (TANGIBLE & SPIRITUAL) TO SUSTAIN HIS PEOPLE AND ADVANCE HIS KINGDOM

1. Supporting Scripture

- a) **II Peter 1:3**, His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and Godliness
- b) **I Timothy 6:17b**, God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.
- c) **Philippians 4:19**, And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.
- d) **John 15:7**, If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

2. What this means

- a) In order to fully access God's resources, CrossCity leadership's first priority and responsibility is to earnestly seek godly wisdom and wise counsel to be as certain as possible that our vision is indeed God's vision.
- b) What God orders, He provides. God would not give His people a vision and then fail to provide them the funding to realize it.

BIBLICAL TRUTH #4: GOD USES STEWARDS WHO MANAGE HIS RESOURCES WELL AND DEPLOY THEM TO SUSTAIN AND ADVANCE HIS KINGDOM.

1. Supporting Scripture

- a) **I Corinthians 4:2**, It is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.
- b) **Luke 17:10**, So you too, when you do all the things which are commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy slaves; we have done only that which we ought to have done.'
- c) **Ex. 35:4-36:7**, The people are bringing much more than enough for the construction work which the Lord commanded us to perform.

- d) **I Chronicles 29:1-9**, ...the people rejoiced because they had offered so willingly, for they made their offering to the Lord with a whole heart.
- e) **II Corinthians 8:1-5**, We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.
- f) **II Corinthians 9:8**, And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need, and plenty left over to share with others.
- g) **II Corinthians 9:11**, You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

2. What this means:

- a) Since there is no shortage of Kingdom resources, God's people already have possession of all that is necessary to accomplish His vision.
- b) Because we are all stewards of God's resources, charged to manage and deploy them according to His directives, the question we need to ask is not, "What do I want to do with all that I own?" Rather, it should be, "God, what do You want me to do with all You have entrusted to me?"
- c) Learning how to recognize and receive His directions is critically important to how well we steward what He has entrusted to us.
- d) God's stewards often fail to want to and/or know how to strategically deploy His resources. The lack of desire is a spiritual issue. The lack of knowledge is a logistical one.

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS FOR HOW WE DISCIPLE GENEROUS GIVERS IF WE ACCEPT THE FOUR BIBLICAL TRUTHS, THEN...

APPLICATION #1

Our primary objective must be to help stewards more fully connect to the mind and the heart of God, the Owner of all we possess.

1. Preparing Our Ministry Partners:

- a) We believe the more closely attuned to the mind and the heart of God His stewards become, the more successful they will be in effectively and obediently managing and deploying the resources that God has entrusted to them according to His wishes.
- b) Our goal for our ministry partners is to enhance their stewardship of all their possessions, not just to raise funds. We are committed to putting ministry over money – focusing on helping them more fully...

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- i) catch a bigger vision for themselves and for God's Kingdom.
 - ii) surrender themselves to the Lord.
 - iii) attune their hearts to the voice of the Holy Spirit.
 - iv) experience the joy of giving.
- c) We want to be long-term sowers, not just short-term harvesters, in our development efforts with our ministry partners.
 - d) How we serve our ministry partners reflects what we want for them, not what we want from them.
 - e) We want our ministry partners to experience a spiritual transformation, not just participate in a financial transaction, when they engage with us. We want to be a blessing and bring a blessing to our ministry partners in every interaction we have with them.
 - f) We believe, if we are faithful in serving and equipping our current and potential ministry partners, the required funding to sustain and advance CrossCity will always come.
 - g) We recognize that any increased Kingdom funding should be the by-product of our stewardship ministry efforts and not the only reason for it.
2. Preparing Ourselves to serve our Ministry Partners (for the work of ministry...Eph. 4:12)
- a) We are committed to living our personal lives in such a way that exemplifies the grace and truth of Jesus and demonstrates spiritual awareness and maturity to our ministry partners as we attempt to honor the Lord in every area of our lives.
 - b) We are committed to being excellent Christian, advancement professionals who serve our ministry partners, with both skill and knowledge, to help them effectively steward and deploy what the Lord has entrusted to them.

APPLICATION #2

The Holy Spirit must be our Chief Advancement Officer.

1. Prayer must become our primary development activity since we believe that the Holy Spirit can most effectively move the minds and hearts of His people to align them more closely with the mind and the heart of our Father.
2. We are committed to earnestly and prayerfully seek the Lord in all of our development ministry efforts.
3. The "ask" will always be directed to the Owner and His steward, engaging them in a spiritual conversation: Asking God, the Owner, for clarity and direction.

APPLICATION #3

We will openly share our vision with people.

1. We believe the Holy Spirit will move the hearts of the stewards He is calling to engage with us in achieving our vision.
2. We will invite stewards to personally join our vision, not merely ask them to help financially fund it. We are looking for ministry partners, not just financial funders.
3. We will never employ any techniques that are designed to maneuver, manipulate, or pressure current or potential ministry partners for the purpose of acquiring funding from them. In our development efforts, the end will never justify the means.
4. We also understand that not all stewards with whom we share our vision will be called by God to deploy the resources they manage for this particular vision; therefore, we are comfortable with “No” as an answer.

APPLICATION #4

We will educate & train all of our congregants

1. Offer classes educating and training on the importance of honoring God with our finances
 - a) Financial Classes/Offerings
 - i) Budgeting Classes: Offered for those who prefer a short-term commitment on how to steward their finances through the use of planned income and expenses.
 - ii) Ramsey+ Memberships: Formerly referred to as “Financial Peace University”, this membership includes a self-paced journey to improve your overall financial well-being.
 - iii) Generosity Workshops: Offered to givers looking to create a thoughtful approach to a sustainable wealth transfer process and to pass on their values and leave a lasting legacy.
 - b) Discipleship Classes
 - i) Discover CrossCity
 - ii) Membership Class
 - iii) Rooted Program

CONCLUSION

As you can see, this theology of advancement sets an incredibly high standard for service and work: a standard that can only be reached through total commitment, humble surrender, and absolute obedience to the Lord. It is our desire to live and to engage in such a way that God will be glorified in not only what we achieve, but also in how we have achieved it. We believe that if we do our work God’s way; the outcomes will always end well. After all our labors are done, we want to hear, Well done, good and faithful servant...



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