

Biblical Benevolence

Critical Questions to Ask When Considering a Benevolent Act

- 1 Is this a REAL NEED? "For this [giving] is not for the ease of others and for your affliction... (2 Corinthians 8 13) "Let our people learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs..." (Titus 3 14)
- 2 Will Giving HELP or HURT this person? "... some among you are leading an UNDISCIPLINED life, doing no work at all... vs. 15 admonish him as a brother" (2 Thessalonians 3 10-15) Note: Irresponsible behavior, abuses, etc. should not be encouraged
- 3 Is this the BEST use of the benevolent funds? "Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of God... to visit orphans and widows in their distress..." (James 1 27) "If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food..." (James 2 15-17) "So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men and especially to those who are of the household of the faith" (Galatians 6 10)
- 4 How can this become an opportunity for the GOSPEL? "Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders making the most of the opportunity" (vs. 5, Colossians 4.2-6) Note: Jesus said truly, truly... you seek me... because you ate of the loaves and were filled... do not work for food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the son of man shall give to you..." (John 6 26,27)

Each Should Consider Carefully the Way They Give

- 1 Give your "alms in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will repay you" (vs. 4, Matthew 6 2-4) Giving must never become a platform for personal power or glory.
- 2 "Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9 7) When God moves in the heart it unifies the church and takes care of the need! Note Acts 4 32-35
- 3 "Do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation" (Romans 12 16) Seek to preserve the dignity of those you minister to.
- 4 "Let love be without hypocrisy... give preference to one another in honor... not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord" (Romans 12 9-11) Matthew 25 45 People can tell if you genuinely care about them... don't be slow... needs should be met quickly.