

Sharing

In our culture, the focal point of authority is money. Some passages suggest that Christians have an obligation to support certain people monetarily.

- Early Christians in Jerusalem shared with each other.
 - Acts 2:44 – 45 They had all things in common.
 - Acts 4:34 – 35 They distributed to each as anyone had need.
 - Acts 5:4 Christians were under no compulsion to sell property or share assets.
- Christians in other places sent funds for famine relief in Jerusalem.
 - Acts 11:29 The disciples [in Antioch of Syria]...determined to send relief.
 - 1 Corinthians 16:1 – 3 Now concerning the collection for the saints...
 - 2 Corinthians 8 – 9 ...by way of equality
- Teachers of the gospel are to be supported financially.
 - 3 John 6 ...that we may become fellow workers.
 - Titus 3:13 Send Zenas and Apollos on their journey...that they may lack nothing.
 - 1 Corinthians 9:3 – 14 Who goes to war at his own expense?
 - 1 Timothy 5:17 – 18 Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor.
- Needy brethren are to be helped.
 - Matthew 25:35 – 40 ...I was hungry and you gave me food...
 - 1 John 3:17 ...and shuts his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?
- Generally helping the poor
 - Ephesians 4:28 ...labor that you may share.
 - Galatians 2:10 ...remember the poor.
 - Luke 14:12 – 14 When you give a feast, invite the poor...
- Taking care of needy relatives is essential
 - 1 Timothy 5:8 ...anyone not providing for his own...is worse than an unbeliever.
- Sharing must be from love.
 - 1 Corinthians 13:3 ...but have not love, it profits me nothing.
- Poverty will not be eradicated; honoring Jesus is a more worthy expenditure.
 - Matthew 26:11, Mark 14:7, John 12:8 The poor you will have with you always.
- Deciding how to share is not a matter of resources or priorities, but of faith.
 - 2 Corinthians 8:12 ...according to what a man has, not what he does not have.
 - 2 Corinthians 9:6 He who sows sparingly will reap sparingly.
 - 2 Corinthians 9:7 God loves a cheerful giver.
- 2 Corinthians 12:14 Children ought not to lay up for the parents, but parents for the children.

Who decides with whom I am to share?

- The apostles had authority to demand support; they are not recorded to have used that right.
- One who claims authority over the finances of another takes what God has not granted.
- Asserting that someone else must give money to a certain cause in order to have worthy faith is ungodly manipulation.
- All believers have liberty. Each must assess his or her own generosity and share accordingly.