

1 Biblical financial principles

2 V. Money and the church

3 We'll briefly examine 6 topics

- Churches helping churches
- Instructions for church leaders
- Teaching stewardship in the church
- Church finance committees
- Admonitions to individuals
- Building projects in the church

4 1. Churches helping churches

5 Key scriptural passage

•Of course, I don't mean your giving should make life easy for others and hard for yourselves. I only mean that there should be some equality. Right now you have plenty and can help those who are in need. Later, they will have plenty and can share with you when you need it. In this way, things will be equal. As the Scriptures say, "Those who gathered a lot had nothing left over, and those who gathered only a little had enough." ^{2 Cor 8:13-15 (NLT)}

6 Churches helping churches (cont'd)

- Attitude is a voluntary act of service: ^{2 Corinthians 8:1-5}
- Goal is equality: ^{2 Corinthians 8:10-15}
- Wonderful way to finance a daughter church (Example of Kanaan church)

7 Church helping churches: a real-life example

- 1998: First EFC in Colorado Springs partnered with the mother church in Mulhoi to build a permanent building for their daughter church in the village of Kanaan
- 1999: Kanaan church was dedicated to the Lord

8 2. Instructions for church leaders

- The church is to treat poor and rich alike ^{James 2:1-4 James 2:9}
- Encourage giving as an act of worship ^{Matt 2:11}
- The Bible contains examples of both anonymous and public giving ^{Matt 6:4 1 Chronicles 29:2-9}
- Church leadership can set the example in giving
- People should be encouraged to give faithfully as their first priority. Then, they should add spiritual graces to their giving such as generosity, a willing heart, cheerfulness, and joy ^{2 Cor 9:7 >}

9 3. Teaching stewardship in the local church

- Teach biblical financial principles
- Emphasize that God wants our knowledge, but he wants our heart even more
- Leadership training
- Teach responsibility according to God's Word
- Encourage a culture of faithful giving
- Teach the joy of generosity (Brian Kluth materials)
- Share testimonies of God's faithfulness >

10 4. Financial management within the local church

- The makeup and responsibilities of the financial committee
 - Chairman, secretary, treasurer
 - Members must have utmost honesty. Integrity is a critical character quality of a steward
- Have a written financial policy. Policies may vary from church to church or be determined by the district or the denomination
- Financing a part-time pastor (tent ministries) >

11 5. The church and individual responsibility

- Be faithful in our giving and honor our commitments
 - Give willingly and cheerfully as unto the Lord
 - If our church allows us to designate the use of funds we give, do it prayerfully with the heart of a steward
 - Leave the final decision of how the church offering is distributed to those in authority
 - Don't "punish" the church leadership by withholding our giving commitments. Our gifts really belong to God. He has ultimate control over them. Practice faithful, cheerful giving and leave the results up to him.
- >

12 6. Building projects in the church

13 Building projects in the church (cont'd)

- Building projects will need strong, steadfast, visionary, and competent leadership: Ezra, Nehemiah
- Getting the support of the congregation before proceeding is critical: Exodus 35:29, 1 Chronicles 29:14 -19
- Obtaining public gift and leadership gifts can glorify God and result in great rejoicing and increased generosity: 1 Chronicles 29:1 - 9
- Financing could be through long-term savings program, a fund drive encouraging cash and pledges over a specific time period, or other strategies
- Getting support of local officials is important: Neh 2:5, Ezra 6:1-18--> end

14 Class discussion

- What is your church's financial relationship to other churches within your area or district?
- Has your church ever helped a struggling church financially? What was the result? What has that experience taught your church leaders?
- Has your church ever been in need financially? Did other churches offer assistance? What lessons has your church leadership learned from that experience?

15 Quiz

- Create one or more quizzes that deal with this module
- Usually 4 or 5 choices or statements work best for each quiz
- After allowing a minute or two for the students to complete the quiz, go over the answers. For false statements, ask the class what change could be made to make the statement true

16