



Solid Rock Stance on Finances

Solid Rock Church operates under the Biblical truth that everything was created by God and, therefore, belongs to God.

*¹ The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, ² for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers. **Psalm 24:1-2***

From this perspective, every resource that bears the name Solid Rock Church actually belongs to the Lord, not the church. As a church, we are simply managers and stewards of God's resources. Our financial philosophy is based on responsible stewardship and generous giving.

Because of our Biblical conviction for stewardship, it is a Solid Rock principal to strive for freedom from debt, both as individuals and as a church. Solid Rock only accrues debt for short periods of time when the Elder Body deems it absolutely necessary and responsible.

*⁸Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes and contributions. ⁹ You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. ¹⁰ Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need." **Malachi 3:8-10***

*"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others." **Matthew 23:23***

*"Give us this day our daily bread" **Matthew 6:11***



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*“⁸Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, ⁹lest I be full and deny you and say, "Who is the LORD?" or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God.” **Proverbs 30:8-9***

God teaches us, through the Old and New Testament, to bring him our full tithe. We believe the Bible is very literal in its use of the word "tithe" to mean ten percent. The promise is that, when we trust God with our needs, He will provide blessing until there is no more need. Giving at Solid Rock is not a means to manipulate God into making us rich or an attempt to pay Him back for His blessings. Instead, giving is a joy-filled privilege, responsibility, and act of worship. Though the New Testament is not as clear on tithing as the Old Testament, we do not believe the omission of emphasis negates the believer's responsibility to tithe. Rather, we believe the New Testament teaches that the generosity of the believer should be such that, through maturity and consistent stewardship, the goal of individual giving should seek to joyfully exceed ten percent when able. In Christ, as we learn to be satisfied in a lifestyle of living on less, we are released to give more. We believe that Jesus teaches a complete abandonment from attachment to earthly possessions to the point of sacrificial generosity. It is a joyful responsibility for a believer to give of his or her possessions generously to meet the needs of the ministry or others who are in need. We also believe that when we release our grip on earthly possessions it reflects a tangible expression of our trust and confidence in the Lord to keep His promises to provide for our daily needs. Trust on this level is a beautiful expression of worship.

We do not teach that if you give money to God, He will pay off your excessive debt and make you rich. We believe that the Bible clearly teaches that God has promised to provide for our daily needs, not our wants. We believe that the Bible teaches stewardship and conservative living in order to take care of our daily needs and pay back outstanding debt *while* striving to give generously to the



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ministry of the church and the needs of others. If people are in financial jeopardy, we teach that they should seek counsel from a mature believer on what monthly expenses constitute as basic necessity and to cover those expenses first while simultaneously seeking to give what is available. We do not instruct believers to write hot checks or incur debt in order to give. As a person who is struggling financially engages in responsible and conservative living, and becomes increasing more able, giving should increase toward the goal of giving beyond ten percent.

⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common.

*⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need." **Acts 2:44-45***

*³²Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. ³³And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴ There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold ³⁵and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. ³⁶Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, ³⁷ sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet." **Acts 4:32-37***

¹Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. ²Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you,



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*they have received their reward. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. **Matthew 6:1-4***

*“Jesus said to him, ‘If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.’” **Matthew 19:21***

Because of Solid Rock’s deep convictions on these financial matters, we operate under an umbrella of complete accountability and disclosure. While we do not publish all of the financial details, this information is never off limits to SR members. We publish basic statements of incoming and outgoing money in the weekly newsletter and in summary at the end of each quarter. In addition, there is never a time where we allow one person to be alone with money for handling or counting, until all records have been made and the deposit is ready. All checks written require 2 signatures by Elders and/or our Operations Director and must be connected to an account and an approved financial request form.

We operate under this financial stance as a result of careful study of Scripture, a desire to be obedient, a pursuit of stewardship for God’s possession, and a joy in the financial freedom to be generous for the sake of the Gospel.