

Fundraising For Christ

3 John 5-8

A. Introduction

1. Tonight, we propose to answer a question most of us have had at some point.
 - a. You may know that we do not solicit funds from our community.
 - b. We do not have bake sales, garage sales, or car washes.
 - c. Yet we frequently see these approaches used by churches around us.
2. Why do we abstain?
 - a. Whose responsibility?
 - b. Various methods used today
 - c. Specific authorized directions to the church in funding the Lord's work

B. Discussion

1. **Whose responsibility is it to support the work? (3 Jn. 5-8)**

- a. **v. 8** – "...we ought to support people like these."
- b. **(1 Co. 9:4-13)** Those who labor in the gospel are worthy of the church's support.
- c. Verse 13 alludes to principle from OT priesthood (**Le. 2:1-3**)
- d. **(Ph. 2:25-30)** Paul was helped immeasurably by the support of Philippian church.
 - 1) **(Ph. 4:10-19)** They shared his trouble (v. 14) – **cf. Monreau going to Haiti**
 - 2) Who would have done this if not for the Lord's people?
- d. Church is responsible for supporting the Lord's work.
 - 1) If God's people won't support it, who will?
 - 2) And why would a world which does not understand the value?
 - 3) Someone once said, "The brotherhood has in its possession more than enough funds to evangelize the world. The problem is that they [funds] are in the hands of the brotherhood!"

2. **Varied methods of supporting the work of a church are used today.**

- a. A handful of real-life examples to consider...
 - 1) Friday – men w/ buckets @ intersection
 - 2) Bake sales
 - 3) Yard sales
 - 4) Car washes
 - 5) Cookie dough
 - 6) Candles
 - 7) Scratch cards
 - 8) Cheesecake
 - 9) Lollipops
 - 10) Carnivals
 - 11) Auctions
 - 12) Car raffles
 - 13) Magazine subscriptions
 - 14) Dunk tank throws
- b. One of two things is true if we end up down this road:
 - 1) We do not care enough about our responsibility to adequately fund the work
 - 2) We have become wrapped up in wasteful peripheral spending

3. **God has been specific in authorizing the method by which the work should be funded.**

- a. **(1 Co. 16:1-3)** First day of every week, all Christians, giving as we have been prospered.
- b. **(2 Co. 9:6-15)** Done with intent, knowing the blessings it provides for others.
- c. Other than 3 John (wherein is prohibition), the Lord is silent with respect to taking funds from world.

C. Conclusion

1. CHR is full of generous saints.
 - a. Not a compliment to make us ease off the throttle
 - b. An encouragement to abound in our giving.
 - 1) Giving certainly part of the “growth” process (**2 Pe. 3:18**)
 - 2) As with anything requiring growth, we must challenge ourselves to excel
2. The privilege is ours to give.
3. For we are investing in the only cause that will stand after world is dissolved in a fervent heat!