A Framework for Faithful Generosity The Stewardship of Life Pt 3 Bud Wrenn 6/10/07 Integrity

Jesus' View of Giving:

A. The Principle of Accountability.

Mark 12:41 Jesus ... watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts.

2 Cor. 9:5 So I thought I should send these brothers ahead of me to make sure the gift you promised is ready. But I want it to be a willing gift, not one given under pressure.

B. The Principle of Proportionality.

Mark 12:42 But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny.

2 Cor. 9:6 ...a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop.

The Minimum: My <u>Tithe</u>.

Malachi 3:10 Bring to the storehouse a full tenth of what you earn so there will be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord All-Powerful. "I will open the windows of heaven for you and pour out all the blessings you need.

The Standard: My <u>All</u>.

Luke 6:38 Give away your life; you'll find life given back, but not merely given back—given back with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting, is the way."

C. The Principle of *Motive*.

Mark 12:43 Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others.

2 Cor. 9:7 You must each make up your own mind as to how much you should give. Don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves the person who gives cheerfully. (NLT)

Giving Guidelines:

- a) Autonomy,
- b) Readiness,
- c) Sincerity.

Steps to Developing Right Motives:

1. Learn God's rules for finances.

- 2. Assign all your assets to God.
- 3. Practice unconditional generosity.
- 4. Repeat the cycle continuously.

Jesus' View of Giving

D. The Principle of <u>Trust</u>.

Mark 12:44 They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything--all she had to live on."

2 2 Cor. 9:8-9 And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share ... "Godly people give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will never be forgotten."