



Servant's Corner

April 2015

“I Just Give”

By Rich Henderson, Love INC Director

“My responsibility is to give. If they are conning me, they will have to deal with God about that”. I’ve heard that sentiment expressed often by Christians when it comes to helping people in need. The “gift” could be a variety of things: money, food, gas, diapers, etc. On the surface it sounds good--who could find fault with giving?

The issue is that it is not our stuff we are giving away, but God’s. He expects us to be good stewards of that which He entrusts to our care. Paul said, “*It is required of stewards that one be found **trustworthy***” (1 Cor. 4:2b). While it may be commendable to err on the side of generosity rather than stinginess, can we be considered good stewards if we don’t take the time to investigate whether or not a need is legitimate? Can we imagine Jesus commending us by saying, “I was a heroin addict and you gave me money for my next fix?” (see Matthew 25:31-46)

We wouldn’t take such a casual attitude with other aspects of our stewardship. Can you imagine a homeowner saying, “I just allow any stranger to stay in my home. If they are a thief or an axe murderer, they will have to deal with God about that?” Can you imagine a parent saying, “I just let any stranger watch my toddler. If they are irresponsible or a child molester, they will have to deal with God about that?” NO WAY!!

It takes effort to investigate if a request for help is legitimate. It requires seeking the Lord for discernment to know what we should do. Giving without investigating is likely to elicit a warm “bless you” from the recipient. If our investigation proves the need isn’t legitimate, there is a good chance the person asking will turn belligerent and say, “And you call yourself a CHRISTIAN!?” Could it be that giving without investigating is really about laziness and feeling good about ourselves, not about wise stewardship or doing what is best for the other person?



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