

Just Before the Offering—A Two-Minute Stewardship Teaching

What Difference Does My Giving Make

In just a few moments, an usher will stand at the end of your row and you'll have the opportunity to give. Maybe this question has rolled through your mind: "What difference does my giving make?" Sometimes, it's easy to see the difference it makes in the church, community, or world, but what difference does it make in my own life.

Here's one difference your giving makes. **Your giving makes you more like God.** John 3.16 says, "For God so loved the world that he gave." God is a giver, so when you give, you become more like him. It's been said that you can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving. Your gift—flowing from a heart of love—makes you more like God.

Here's another difference giving makes in your own life: **Your giving inoculates you against materialism.** The culture tempts us to love things and use people, but your giving injects your life with the antidote to the materialistic virus of our culture.

1 Timothy 6:17-18 says, "Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to be generous and willing to share. In this way, they may take hold of the life that is truly life!"

As you give today, remind yourself of the difference it makes—not just in our community—but in your own life. It makes you more like God. And, it is a powerful remedy for the materialistic virus of our culture. Let's pray.