


Giver or Taker?



Acts 20:35

God wants us to be givers!

- Proverbs 11:25; 22:9
- Acts 20:35 *“More blessed to give than to receive”*
- Luke 6:38
- 1 Timothy 6:18
- Hebrews 13:16
- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Givers in the Bible

- Abraham
- Boaz
- Good Samaritan
- Onesiphorus (2 Timothy 1)
- Jesus (Matthew 20:28; John 10)
 - *“The son of man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life...”*
 - *“The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep.” (Jn 10:11)*

Takers in the Bible

- **Jacob**
- **Absalom**
- **Ahab and Jezebel**
- **Gehazi**
- **Rich Young Ruler**
- **Diotrephes**
- **Satan**

Problems caused by takers... in the home

- **Husbands**
- **Wives**
- **Parents**
- **Children**
- **Friends**



Problems caused by takers in the local church

- **Attitudes about attendance**
- **Attitudes towards service**
- **Attitudes in controversy**

The description of a “giver” in controversy - James 3:17,18

- 17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.
- 18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

How to root out “takerism”

- Learn not to worry so much about self
- Follow the examples of givers
- Make a list of people you can help
- Dedicate time each week for...
 - *Calls, notes* - *babysitting*
 - *Visiting sick, shut ins* - *etc.*
- **Pray!**