Introduction

Administrative excellence is important for a church’s testimony to the Christian and non-Christian community.

“There is nothing which is more apt to lay one open to sinister imputations than the handling of public money.”

John Calvin

I. In the way we handle our money (resources). II Corinthians 8:16-21

Paul was very careful in how he handled this gift for the poor in Jerusalem.

- We want to avoid any criticism. Verse 20
- We want to do what is right in the eyes of God and man. Verse 21
- We want to honor the Lord. Verse 19

Do we really need to be concerned about this?

“It is the little foxes that ruin the vineyards.” Song of Songs 2:15

It is the little things that can ruin a marriage or a ministry.

II. In the way we represent the church. II Corinthians 8:22-24

Look at the character of the men who would handle this offering.
Titus (Verses 16-23)

- My partner and fellow worker.
- Concerned for the church
- Eager to serve
- Chosen by Paul and approved by the church
- He will lead the delegation.

A Second Brother (Verses 18-19)

- Unnamed but praised by all the churches.
- Chosen by the churches.
- Faithful in his ministry in the gospel.

A Third Brother (Verses 22-23)

- Proven in ministry.
- A representative of the church
- An honor to Christ

These were men of character and integrity.
Our reputation affects the Lord and the church.
Are we an honor to Christ?

This passage is a call to excellence

III. In the way we keep our commitments. II Corinthians 9:1-5

The Corinthians had good intentions, but they were lacking in follow through.

Paul knows our human nature.
We can be

- Impulsive.
- Distracted by other things.
- Lazy and undisciplined.
- Forgetful.

We need someone to help us, encourage us and hold us accountable.
When we give, it is important that we keep our commitments.

- Child Sponsorship.
- Missionary Support.
- The Church.

What does the Lord want you to give?

In Malachi 3:10 the Lord says, "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."

Are you ready to start tithing?

It is a step of faith and obedience.

Conclusion

See that you excel in this grace of giving.

- In the way we handle our money.
- In the way we represent the church.
- In the way we keep our commitments.