

Giving to God and Family

Opening Prayer

Almighty God and giver of every good gift, You've entrusted to our care the well-being of not only our family, but of friends, neighbors, the poor, the homeless, the marginalized, and strangers. May we trust in Your promise that as we use our resources to care for others, You will pour out even greater blessings upon us. Direct our hearts and minds to love those who are in the most need. Grant us the wisdom and strength to obey Your Word with a selfless heart. Our ability to respond is itself a gift from You, for which we give You praise and thanks. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Purpose

In many ways is easier than ever. We can access numerous financial “vehicles” to help guarantee their stability and comfort: life insurance policies, wills, trusts, and IRAs, to name a few. Naturally, we want to care for those closest to us, but once we have done all we can to safeguard their future well-being both financially and spiritually, are we finished with our estate plan? Hopefully not! If we consider our responsibility to provide for others complete at this point, we have done nothing deserving praise or honor. Christ addressed this when He said:

“If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?” Matthew 5:47-48

Human nature inclines us to provide for our spouses, descendants and loved ones. The *divine nature* to which we are called to be – as one with God – asks much more of us.