



1 Corinthians 16

Be Intentional

The last ten months have been an inspiring journey for our church...we've walked through controversial topics ...tongues, healing, miracles, chauvinism, feminism, fornication, homosexuality, incest, marriage, divorce, remarriage, the power of the cross, the empty tomb, lawsuits, getting drunk at communion and more. Paul started out by affirming our calling in Christ (1:2&9) and ending with the powerful effects of the resurrection of Christ. We are to be encouraged to *"abound in the work of God"*. As we spill over into the final chapter, Paul gets more specific about what that work should look like, and how you and I can be more intentional.

1. Discuss this statement: *"If you are not intentional you will always be subject to the tyranny of the urgent."*
2. Read verses 1-4. What are principles you can glean about giving? What do you know about the situation in Jerusalem (see Romans 15:25-27 & Acts 11:27-30). See also 2 Cor. 8:13 and 9:7 for more on giving. What questions do you have about giving that you are not sure about?
3. Why do you think God asks us to give when He owns it all? See also Matt. 6:21 and 23.
4. Read verses 4-9. Notice how tentative Paul's language is. When it comes to your decisions, do you subject them to God's leading? How do you do that? What doors of opportunity have you seen God open up for you? Can you tell of an experience of how God led you through a decision-making process?
5. Read verses 10-18. Discuss some of the characteristics of being a leader (esp. v.13).
Alert-
Firm-
Manly-
Loving-
Submitted-
How can we be intentional in these areas? How can we sharpen each other?