

## **Hope Fellowship Statement on Money and Possessions**

“None of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions,” Jesus told the large crowds that were following him (Luke 14.33). The call to follow Jesus was to abandon the old way of life and commit all to God’s great economy.

After Pentecost the first church in Jerusalem responded to this call with both spontaneous and organized sharing within the community of believers. Even though some still owned individual property, their voluntary spirit of sharing and dedication of all things to God’s economy led Luke to write of them, “no one claimed private ownership of any possessions.” (Acts 4.33) As a result, no one in the community was in need and the stage was set through the corporate consciousness of the community for a witness to the world of the good news of God’s great economy.

In our commitment to God’s great economy we affirm the teaching and calling of Jesus on our lives, and in the same spirit of adaptation as the Jerusalem community we seek to live out of the principles enunciated below. At times we take two steps forward, and at other times we slip a step back, but overall we find courage and hope as we see glimpses of the fullness of God’s great economy that is to come. We affirm these principles as joy and grace in our life, not as legal rules or sources of guilt. If we are on the right path we will find that in our relationships we are increasingly more open and less secretive, more sharing and less controlling, more generous and less judgmental in matters of finance and possessions.

### The Teaching of Jesus on Economics that We Affirm

- Thankfulness to God for the blessings he has given us
- Investment in God’s economy and laying up of treasure in heaven
- Trust in God’s provision rather than in our own efforts to lay up treasure on earth
- Renunciation of all for the sake of God’s economy.

### Principles We Aspire To

1. **Tithe.** To give at least a tithe (10% of income) to the corporate treasury of the church.
2. **Detachment.** To call no possessions our own, in other words to dedicate all we have to the cause of God’s economy and to develop a sense of detachment from possessions.
3. **Generosity.** To live in such a way that none in the fellowship will be in need.