



Gospel Community Notes & Questions

Title: The Practice of Generosity

Text: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Theme: Jesus-shaped generosity is the joyful investment of our resources and lives in the Lord's work and the Lord's people.

Teaching Notes: American Christians give on average about 2.5% of their income to charitable causes. They give even less of their time. This is problematic, given that Jesus said what we do with our resources reveals what we treasure. We can't serve both God and money. But the good news is we can be transformed by the grace of Jesus so we give not only generously, but also cheerfully. It can become a true joy to invest in the things that are near and dear to the heart of God.

Outline:

1. The Mandate of Generosity.

- Jesus requires his followers to give generously.

2. The Mindset of Generosity.

- a. Give freely.
- b. Give cheerfully.
- c. Give systematically.
- d. Give discreetly.

3. The Model of Generosity.

- a. The Old Testament model of tithing.
- b. The New Testament model of Jesus' generosity.

4. The Metaphor of Generosity.

- Generosity is sowing; it's an investment in something that promises to bear more fruit.

5. The Motivation of Generosity.

- a. God motivates us with the promise of reward.
- b. God motivates us with the grace of the Gospel.



Questions to explore individually and with your group:

1. What do you love to spend money on? What do you love spending time on? What is it about those things that make your expenditure enjoyable?
2. How would you describe your generosity at this time? What charitable causes and organizations do you give to? Who/what else do you give to? What resources do you give or share? How much do you give? When? How often? [Note: This is a personal question, so you have a snapshot of current giving patterns in mind.]
3. What would you say is the #1 reason you're not more generous?
4. How do you feel when people talk about giving/generosity around you? How do you feel when you give? Why do you think you experience those feelings?
5. Should a follower of Jesus be tithing 10% of their income to the Lord's work? Why or why not? What's the best biblical argument you can think of in favor of this view? What's the best biblical argument you can think of against it?
6. How does the analogy of sowing change the way you think about generosity?
7. Why do you think the Bible so frequently motivates generosity with promises of a greater reward? [see Proverbs 3:9-10; 11:24-25; Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38; 16:11-13; 2 Corinthians 9:8, 11]
8. What are some present and future benefits you enjoy because of the generosity of Jesus? How much is this gracious generosity a motivating factor of your own generosity? Should Christians who are not under the ceremonial law of the Old Testament be less generous because we're under grace?
9. Where are some places that your life intersects with the Lord's people and the Lord's work? How, specifically, could you apply generosity to one of these circumstances this week?
10. What's one practical, specific thing you'll do with the message this week?