

The Generosity of Grace – Part 3

Introduction and Review

- ❑ Generosity in giving cannot be commanded, but it is the result of true love for God & His people (2Co. 8:8).
- ❑ Christ is both our model & motivation for giving generously from a heart of love (v. 9; Phil. 2:6-8).
- ❑ Generous & consistent giving while using godly wisdom is acceptable to God (v. 10-12). *Inconsistent, erratic, mediocre giving is unacceptable to God – excellence in giving...*
- ❑ Motivated by a desire for fairness or equality, believers should give generously to help other believers who do not have the necessities of life (v. 13-15).

I. Giving for the Glory of God (v. 16-20)

A. God controls the heart (v. 16-18)

God gives believers the desire to help others in need – “put into the heart” (v. 16). God also uses people to make verbal appeals & requests for others to obey the will of God (v. 17). Even popular & effective ministers of the gospel must be personally involved to help those with physical needs (v. 18). God puts the desire to help needy people in the hearts of believers as He chooses – not partial...

B. God appoints to ministry (v. 19-20)

God gives His people principles in His word & wisdom to appoint biblically qualified people to handle money (v. 19). Money must be handled in a manner that is above reproach (v. 20). Generosity is called an “act of grace” which is done for “the glory of the Lord” & “to show good will”. Believers should want our money to bring glory to God & genuine help to God’s people.

II. Giving for the Honor of God and People (v. 21-24)

A. Testing proves faithfulness (v. 21-23)

*Believers should want ministry efforts to be honorable, especially money (v. 21) – καλός is meeting high standards or expectations. Believers who handle money must have been tested & prove that they will not misuse church money (v. 22; 1Tim. 3:10a) – *prove they can resist the temptation of**

money. These believers must be called & equipped by God to bring glory to Christ (v. 23) – to reveal Christ...

B. Testing proves love (v. 24)

Faith and love are tested to prove the genuine work of grace in a believer’s heart. Believers prove our love with more than words when we help others in need (1Jn. 3:17-18). God is honored when believers handle financial matters honestly, biblically & legally. God’s people are considered honorable when they do the same.

ILL: Jim Bakker – 5 years in prison for fraud & embezzlement; Robert Tilton - \$80M/year fraud exposed on ABC news (‘90s); Senate probe in excessively lavish lifestyles: K. Copeland, C. Dollar, B. Hinn, E. Long, J. Meyer & P. White; “Scandalized pastor Henry Lyons filed bankruptcy to avoid Tampa church foreclosure” – former head of Nat’l Baptist Convention imprisoned 5 years for stealing in ‘99; “Maryland Pastor Dr. Shine to serve 27 months for hiding millions in bankruptcy court”. The temptations of money can bring out the worst in people & the love of money is the root... This type of ungodly behavior does not honor God & brings no honor to God’s people.

APPL: We must beware & we must be wise even as we are giving generously for the work of God. We, like Paul, Titus & the other believers in our text, must take every precaution to be open & honest in handling money in the kingdom of God. No one starts out as a major thief; it begins with a little cheating, lying, dishonesty or stealing. It begins with keeping back a little money that was supposed to be given to God – robbing God. It begins with ignoring the conviction of the Holy Spirit when the first dishonest act is committed; then the 2nd & 3rd... I know you say, “I could never do anything like that” – 1Co. 10:12. Jesus said, “You cannot serve God and money”; neither can you love God & money!

CONCLUSION

God's honor, glory, name & reputation must motivate us to live holy & give holy. God's honor & glory must motivate us to strive for excellence in everything. We must strive for excellence in our giving generously & excellence in the manner that we handle money for the kingdom of God. It can be done, it must be done; God has given us everything we need – His word, the Holy Spirit, examples in Scripture, examples in the first & 21st centuries, each other, spiritual gifts, hope and the grace of God that gives us both the desire & power to do God's will. Therefore let's hold each other accountable so that none of us yields to the powerful temptation of money – neither the one who gives nor the one who receives & handles it! We can all have victory regarding stewardship over money – Phil. 4:13.

And if you are not a Christian, you can have victory today too; victory over sin, Satan, world, flesh, temptations that plague you every day. You can have victory over the sentence of death & condemnation that awaits all unbelievers in the future. If want to experience & receive this victory from God, then you must come to Jesus in faith first; you must believe in Jesus...

SUBJECT: [The Generosity of Grace – Part 3](#)

TEXT: [2 Corinthians 8:16-24](#)

LOCATION: [Trinity Community Church](#)

DATE: [September 9, 2012](#)

OCASSION: [Sunday Morning Worship Svc](#)

SERMON INDEX NUMBER: [1011](#)

FILE LOCATION: [Computer Sermons 3Q12](#)

[Prepared by Willie D. Woodmore](#)