

Unreasonable Generosity

2 Corinthians 8:1-9:15

11/11/2018

Of the subjects that pastors fear to preach, generosity is usually right up there at the top of the list.

“Our giving is a reflexive response to the grace of God in our lives...This grace is the action; our giving is the reaction. We give because He first gave to us...As thunder follows lightning, giving follows grace.”

(Randy Alcorn, The Treasure Principle)

- I. Generosity is a response to grace (8:1-7)
 - A. Giving willingly because of grace
 - B. Giving enthusiastically because of grace
 - C. Giving collectively because of grace
- II. Generosity is an act of worship (Matthew 22:34-40)
 - A. Giving says, “You are the God of my heart”
 - B. Giving says, “You are the God of my soul”
 - C. Giving says, “You are the God of my mind”
 - D. Giving says, “You are the God of my everything”
- III. Generosity is a source of joy
 - A. The joy of pleasing God
 1. *“Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.”*
(Proverbs 19:17)
 2. *“Whoever closes his ear to the cry of the poor will himself call out and not be answered.”*
(Proverbs 21:13)
 3. *“Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor.”*
(Proverbs 22:9)
 - B. The joy of reaching people (MAF/JESUS Film clip)
 - C. The joy of helping people (letters to Kimberly and Beatriz)

So What?

- When it comes to generosity, we should allow awareness to become action.
- When it comes to generosity, we should allow action to become habit.
- When it comes to generosity, we should allow habit to become lifestyle.

“The greater proportion of a man’s income that he gives, the happier he is. Happiness is not in what you keep. That’s a deception. It’s what you give.” (Ralph Doudera, Wealth Conundrum)