

The Grace of Giving

2Corinthians 8:1-9

Conclusion

The Grace of Giving

- Previously:
- Grace at work: the grace of God
- Grace at work: the grace of Christians
- Joy at work

Liberality At Work

- 2Cor. 8:2 - “In a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality.”
- 2Cor. 9:13 - “Through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men.”
- Rom. 12:6-8 - “Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; 7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; 8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”

Liberality At Work

- 2Cor. 8:8, 10-12 - “I speak not by commandment, but I am testing the sincerity of your love by the diligence of others... 10 And in this I give advice: It is to your advantage not only to be doing what you began and were desiring to do a year ago; 11 but now you also must complete the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to desire it, so there also may be a completion out of what you have. 12 For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have.”

Liberality At Work

- Liberality depends on the individual's will to give graciously, not on God's need for the offering; He needs nothing; for our benefit, not His.
 - Psalm 50:10-15 - "For every beast of the forest is Mine, And the cattle on a thousand hills. 11 I know all the birds of the mountains, And the wild beasts of the field are Mine. 12 If I were hungry, I would not tell you; For the world is Mine, and all its fullness. 13 Will I eat the flesh of bulls, Or drink the blood of goats? 14 Offer to God thanksgiving, And pay your vows to the Most High. 15 Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."

Liberality At Work

1Chron. 29:10-14 - “Therefore David blessed the LORD before all the assembly; and David said: ‘Blessed are You, LORD God of Israel, our Father, forever and ever. 11 Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, The power and the glory, The victory and the majesty; For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, And You are exalted as head over all. 12 Both riches and honor come from You, And You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; In Your hand it is to make great And to give strength to all. 13 Now therefore, our God, We thank You And praise Your glorious name. 14 But who am I, and who are my people, That we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You, And of Your own we have given You.’”

Liberality At Work

- He wants our heart first, not our offering; our offering is a manifestation of what is in our hearts.
 - Mal. 1:10-13 - “Who is there even among you who would shut the doors, So that you would not kindle fire on My altar in vain? I have no pleasure in you, Says the LORD of hosts, Nor will I accept an offering from your hands. 11 For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down, My name shall be great among the Gentiles; In every place incense shall be offered to My name, And a pure offering; For My name shall be great among the nations, Says the LORD of hosts. 12 But you profane it, In that you say, ‘The table of the LORD is defiled; And its fruit, its food, is contemptible.’ 13 You also say, ‘Oh, what a weariness!’ And you sneer at it, Says the LORD of hosts. And you bring the stolen, the lame, and the sick; Thus you bring an offering! Should I accept this from your hand? Says the LORD.”
 - James 4:8 - “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.”

Fellowship At Work

- 2Cor. 8:4 - “Imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.”
- 2Cor. 8:12 - “For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have.”
- 2Cor. 9:7 - “So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”
- 1Cor. 16:1-2 - “...as he may prosper.”
- Acts 11:29 - “Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea.”
- The offering is an expression of fellowship.

How Much Should I Give?

- 2Cor. 8:5 - “They first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.”
- This should answer the question.
- Matt. 19:27 - “See, we have left all and followed You.”

How Much Should I Give?

- Haggai 1:3-8 - “Then the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, saying, 4 Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple to lie in ruins? 5 Now therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways! 6 You have sown much, and bring in little; You eat, but do not have enough; You drink, but you are not filled with drink; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; And he who earns wages, Earns wages to put into a bag with holes. 7 Thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways! 8 Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build the temple, that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified,’ says the LORD.”
- Haggai needed money to build the temple, but throwing money at it did not build the temple; work did.

How Much Should I Give?

- Giving, not only our money into the contribution, but of our service God.
- Do we believe we have done our part in spreading the Gospel if all we have done is give to support the preaching of the word? It is institutional thinking to believe that giving money is the same as personal, hands on involvement.
- That's how much we should give.

How Much Should I Give?

- “Should I give 10 percent?”
 - The Jews’ yearly tithes totaled 19.5 - 22%.
- No; in Christ, we are permitted to give more.
 - 2Cor. 9:5-7 - “Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren to go to you ahead of time, and prepare your generous gift beforehand, which you had previously promised, that it may be ready as a matter of generosity and not as a grudging obligation. 6 But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”

How Much Should I Give?

- “Let the wealthy members give more!”
- Everyone thinks others are wealthier than they are.

How Can I Give So Much?

- Mal. 3:8-10 - “Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings. 9 You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation. 10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this, Says the LORD of hosts, If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.”
- Just give and see what happens.

How Can I Give So Much?

- 2Cor. 9:8-11 - “And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. 9 As it is written: ‘He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever.’ 10 Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, 11 while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.”
- Luke 6:38 - “Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”

What If I Refuse?

- What do the scriptures say about a person who is miserly or covetous?
- Paul said to withdraw from them.
 - 1Cor. 5:9-11
- The covetous will be lost.
 - 2Tim. 3:2-5

The Grace of Giving

- Giving is a grace, a privilege, a communion or fellowship. Sacrifice with a joyful, single heart.
- Be more like Christ.
 - 2Cor. 8:9 - “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.”