



January 14th Sermon Questions

Generosity

2 Corinthians 8:1-15

Icebreaker: Who is the most generous person you've ever known? What impact has he or she had on your life?

Discussion Questions: Read the scripture verses above.

1. Do you find it difficult to share with others and/or give gifts to others? Why or why not?
2. In verse 10, the Apostle Paul declares that completing this work of giving a gift to the Jerusalem Christians "benefits you" (i.e. the Corinthians). How so? How do you think acts of generosity are good for the giver and not just the receiver?
3. In his argument, the Apostle Paul brings up the theme of justice and equality (vv.13-14). How does his line of reasoning here strike you? In what way do you think it is "a matter of fairness" for the Corinthian Christians to supply for the needs of their brothers and sisters in Jerusalem?
4. In the final verse of our passage, the Apostle Paul quotes from Exodus 16:18, referring to the Israelites' daily collection of manna in the wilderness. How does this example of God's generosity to His ancient people serve as a motivation and encouragement to the church?
5. Grace generates generosity by creating in the followers of Jesus the correct posture of our heads, hands, and hearts. Does your present practice of generosity flow predominately from a rational, volitional, or emotional source? Explain.

6. What false gods and false beliefs might be affecting our pursuit of a lifestyle of generosity, simplicity, and frugality in our hearts?
7. Waiting to give ONLY out of spontaneous generosity is not only a poor strategy but also an unbiblical one. How so?

Questions for personal reflection, feel free to share if feel inclined.

8. As it relates to your head, do you currently have a plan to give systematically and regularly? Why or why not?
9. As it relates to your hands, how are you doing in following through on your good intentions and promises to give? In what specific ways does your generosity need to be activated?
10. As it relates to your heart, how strong is your desire to give, and where does that desire come from?
11. What practical steps might you need to take this week to move towards greater generosity? [Examples = re-examine your spending habits, cancel some subscriptions, pre-write checks, set up online recurring giving, connect with a Deacon to talk about the state of your finances, reach out to your financial advisor about your long-term giving goals, etc.]
12. How integrated is your heart with your giving? In other words, does your heart match what your head is thinking and your hands are doing?