

Liberty Church Values: 8. A Generous People

"For God so loved the world that He gave". There is no one more generous than our God. At Liberty church we believe that a true sign of spiritual maturity is generosity of spirit motivated by a deep abiding thankfulness to God for His limitless, abounding and ever faithful goodness. The giving of time, resources, finances, gifting and talents or any other personal sacrifices made for the benefit of others is a hallmark value of the Kingdom of God. Jesus Himself came not to be served but to serve. He gave all that He had, even His own life, for the benefit of us all. We at Liberty encourage such actions to be applied not only within the body of Christ, but also towards the searching people of the world around us, as a witness for Jesus, as God's people are moved by the Spirit in areas of selfless generosity.

Dictionary definition of generosity.

- Showing a readiness to give more of something, especially money, than is strictly necessary or expected.
- (of a thing) larger or more plentiful than is usual or necessary.

Study Sections

1/. Gods' generosity towards mankind.

- Gods' generosity towards sinners.
- Gods' generosity towards the saints.

2/. Instructions to the church regarding generosity.

3/. Some of the Biblical benefits and results of being generous taken from 2 Cor 9.

4/. Promises concerning generosity.

5/. Conclusion

1/. Gods' generosity towards mankind.

Genesis 1:28-30 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so.

Genesis 2:8-9. The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. And out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow



that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Acts of generosity.

- God gave us power.

God blessed, God said. This was not so much an instruction as it was an act of impartation and empowerment.

- God gave us position.

Have dominion over everything. God didn't just bless them with a few little things of no real consequence. He gave Adam and Eve The position of kingship over and the power to rule, A PLANET.

- God gave us purpose.

Genesis 2:15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

- God gave us provision.

Genesis 1: 29- 30 See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so.

Everything they needed to survive and everything they needed for what they were ruling over, was provided.

- God gave us His presence.

Genesis 3:8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

- God gave us protection. Note tree of life was in the garden.

Genesis 2:9 And out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. **The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden,** and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

- Before the fall.

Genesis 2 :16-17 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "**Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;** but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."



- After the fall.

Genesis 3:22-24 Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"— therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. So He drove out the man; and **He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.**

Originally, Adam and Eve were not told they could not eat from the tree of life. The word for life here means raw flesh.

If they had eaten from the tree of life after they had fallen, they would not have been saved, as in redeemed and cleansed for their sin. They would have lived eternally in their fallen state of body, soul and mind, feeling shame, guilt and fear forever. God in His love and His mercy towards man, prevented Adam and Eve from being able to take from the tree of life.

Gods' generosity towards sinners.

- **Towards Abram**

Genesis 12:1-3 Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. **I will make you a great nation (power); I will bless you (provision) And make your name great (position); And you shall be a blessing (purpose). I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you (protection); And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed (purpose).**"

I WILL all the way through every step (His Presence)

Gods incredible promises to Abram. But what we don't think about is where did Abram come from and what was he into? He was an idolater.

Joshua 24:2 And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord God of Israel: Your fathers, including Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, dwelt on the other side of the River in old times; and **they served other gods.**

Abram worshipped the moon god called sin.

- **The world.**

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

The world. Kosmos. Meaning orderly arrangement, decoration. Not just the planet but specifically the adorning of the world with all its inhabitant. All people. God sees the



beauty in mankind. No matter what their beliefs, age, gender, race, sexual orientation, God gave His Sons life for all people, mankind as a whole.

- **The many.**

Matthew 8:16-17 When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses."

Note that every one was healed and delivered. No call for repentance.

- **Gods' generosity towards the saints.**

Romans 8:29-30 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, **these He also justified**; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

To Justify: To render and regard as innocent and righteous, upright in standing with Himself.

Question : What did God do in order to justify us?

Matthew 20:28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

1 Peter 1:18-19 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

This is the most that anyone could give to another person.

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

Then on top of that.

Romans 8:32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?



2/. Instructions to the church regarding generosity.

- **To be Generous towards the less fortunate.**

Acts 20:35 I have shown you in every way, by **labouring like this**, that you must **support** the **weak**. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

Weak: Feeble in any sense of the word.

Support: To take hold of and participate in. To enter into the lives of those who are struggling,

Context: Paul about to leave Ephesus for the last time as he would not see them again. He exhorted them to do as he did. He lived by example, working with his own hands to support himself and those he was travelling with. He was generous.

- **To be Generous as a mindset towards others.**

Philippians 2:2-4 fulfil my joy by being **like-minded**, having the same love, being of one accord, **of one mind**. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in **lowliness of mind** let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

A person should have an attitude of mind that deliberately humbles themselves (not with a victim or downtrodden mentality, but a confidence in their God given identity) and treats others as being in a place of superiority and importance over ones self and is intentionally looking to help and support others who have needs, whether they be physical, financial, material, emotional or spiritual.

- **To be generous as a life style.**

Acts 2: 44-47. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Question : What would that look like today?

Note. The result of people living a lifestyle of generosity was people being added to the church daily.



3/. Some of the Biblical benefits and results of being generous taken from **2 Corinthians 9**

- **Our generosity Stirs up others to be generous. Vs 2**

Vs 2 for I know your willingness, about which I boast of you to the Macedonians, that Achaia was ready a year ago; and your zeal has stirred up the majority.

- **It sows seeds for our future Vs 6**

Vs 6 But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

- **It touches and releases the grace of God into our lives in the area of provision. Vs 7-11**

Vs 7-11 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. 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. As it is written: "He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever." 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, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.

- **It supplies the needs of the saints. Vs 12.**

Vs 12 For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God,

- **It produces thanks giving towards God Vs 11-12.**

Vs 11-12 while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God. For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God,

- **It proves Gods goodness and grace is at work among the saints and brings Glory to His name. Vs 13-14.**

Vs 13-14 while, 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, and by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you.



4/. Promises concerning generosity.

Proverbs 11:24 There is one who scatters, yet increases more; And there is one who withholds more than is right, But it leads to poverty.

Proverbs 11:25. "The generous soul will be made rich, And he who waters will also be watered himself."

Isaiah 32:8 "But a generous man devises generous things, And by generosity he shall stand."

Proverbs 22:9 "He who has a generous eye will be blessed, For he gives of his bread to the poor."

Luke 6: 37-38 Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. 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."

Philippians 4 :18-19 Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Conclusion

Although we are in so much need of people being consistent and generous with their giving of tithes and offerings in the church, Generosity is so much more than just about the giving of money. It is about the condition of our hearts, our attitude regarding every area of life and helping meet the needs of people in Spirit, soul and body. Mankind's life is made up of far greater and more complex needs than money and material possessions. We need love, kindness, forgiveness, acceptance, praise, recognition, validation, encouragement, companionship, purpose and much more.

May we be a people who are willing to make ourselves readily available to help meet the needs of others when they arise. May we be a people that reflect the incredible and unfathomable generosity of God towards us, who yet being dead in our sins, Christ still came and died for us, through whom have now received forgiveness and acceptance into the family of God.

