

Loving Stewards of God's Kingdom 2nd Corinthians 8:16-24

Recap:

- -Worldly
- -Unimpressed With Paul
- -Confused about ministry and purpose

2 Corinthians = A Call to be a
Counter-Cultural-Cruciform Community

OT Quotes:

Exodus 16:18 (v15)

Proverbs 3:3-4 (v21)

Historical Background:

1 Corinthians 16:1–4; Acts 11:27–30;

20:35; Gal. 2:10

Money is a tool to express our values The grace of God

-used 10x in Chapters 8-9

Giving is grace motivated.

It is relational and regular.

Freewill giving has always been God's plan (cf. 2Co 9:6; Ge 4:2-4; 8:20; Ex 25:1, 2; Ex 35:4, 5, 21, 22; Ex 36:5-7; Nu 18:12; Dt 16:10, 17; 1Ch 29:9; Pr 3:9, 10; 11:24; Lk 19:1-8].

Freely Truthfully Faithfully

The Secret of Grace Giving

Having an "all in" kind of Giving

Their actions revealed their love and devotion to God and others (cf. Matt. 6:19-21; Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:38; 16:13; Phil. 2:3-8, 20-21; 4:19; 1 Thes. 4:9-10

Areas Of Needed Change

- -We may be oblivious to the area, or have ignored the Holy Spirit in regards to it.
- -The areas of change are clearly seen by God, and sometimes seen by others.
- -The areas revealed are for our growth Christ and our great blessing and God's glory!

8 I speak not by commandment, but I am testing the sincerity of your love by the diligence of others.

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.

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.

13 For [I do] not [mean] that others should be eased and you burdened;

14 but by an equality, [that] now at this time your abundance [may supply] their lack, that their abundance also may [supply] your lack--that there may be equality.

15 As it is written, "He who [gathered] much had nothing left over, and he who [gathered] little had no lack.

- 16 But thanks [be] to God who puts the same earnest care for you into the heart of Titus.
- 17 For he not only accepted the exhortation, but being more diligent, he went to you of his own accord.

18 And we have sent with him the brother whose praise is in the gospel throughout all the churches, 19 and not only that, but who was also chosen by the churches to travel with us with this gift, which is administered by us to the glory of the Lord Himself and to show your ready mind,

- 20 avoiding this: that anyone should blame us in this lavish gift which is administered by us—
- 21 providing honorable things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

22 And we have sent with them our brother whom we have often proved diligent in many things, but now much more diligent, because of the great confidence which [we have] in you.

- 23 If [anyone inquires] about Titus, [he is] my partner and fellow worker concerning you. Or if our brethren [are inquired about, they are] messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ.
- 24 Therefore show to them, and before the churches, the proof of your love and of our boasting on your behalf.

v16 - Same Earnest Care

Care for others is shown in giving and service

v17-18 - Diligence and Priorities

Grace giving is not foolish giving

A burden for lost souls, shows correct priorities

V19-23 - Administration and Honesty

A desire to honor God

Above reproach administration

A cooperative and faithful steward

Prov. 3:3-4; 1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9;

1 Pet. 2:15-17

1 Peter 2:15-17 NKJV

For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men-- as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. Honor all [people]. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

V19-23 - Administration and Honesty

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Prov. 3:3-4; 1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9;

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v24- Show to them proof of love

Willing to help and serve in any way - faithfully

Principles of Grace giving (v1-5)

- 1. We give because of grace
- 2. To honor God
- 3. To build relationships
- 4. To the church for the household of faith first
- 5. We give in spite of circumstances

- 6. Sacrificially beyond ability,
- 7. Freely, sincerely, eagerly
- 8. To grow spiritually and in relationship with God
- 9. To express our values
- 10. We should give more than money, Give yourself wholly to God first

11. Because of the gospel 12. Knowing God is our provider 13. We give as stewards of Gods funds, to build His kingdom, His way, honorably, faithfully, with integrity.

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