



Offer Hope. Grow in Community. Be the Church.

January 9, 2021
2 Corinthians 8: Excel at the Gift of Giving



...they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. (8:4)

...see that you also excel in this grace of giving. (8:7)

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich. (8:9)

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

*Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage; rather, He made Himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a man,
He humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross! (Philippians 2:5-8)*

What does Paul mean by desiring “equality”?

“I shall pass through this world but once. Any good, therefore, that I can do or any kindness I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer it or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.” (Stephen Grellet)

What is Paul’s desire about how they handle the financial offering?

Things for us to learn:

1. Getting to give is a grace from God.
2. Regardless of our wealth, we are all to give.

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. Calling His disciples to Him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on. (Mark 12:41-44)

3. Don’t just think about it. Do it!

Now finish the work, so that your eagerness to do it may be matched by your completion of it... (2 Corinthians 8:11)

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence. (1 John 3:16–19)

Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. (James 2:15–17)

4. Excel in the grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7).

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”
(Malachi 3:10)

HOME GROUP Questions for 2 Corinthians 8:

1. What does it mean when Paul instructs the Corinthians to excel in the God given grace of giving? How does our pocketbook reflect what is going on in our heart?
2. What can we learn from the Macedonians about true godly giving from this week’s passage? What was their attitude? Did they give out of their abundance?
3. Read the following Scripture passages regarding giving and discuss why giving and the manner in which one gives is so important to us as Christians.
 - Malachi 3:10
 - 2 Corinthians 9:6-7
 - Luke 6:38
 - 1 Timothy 6:17-19
 - Proverbs 3:27
 - Proverbs 19:17
 - Hebrews 13:16
 - I John 3:16-18
4. Why do you think it is important for us to be generous in our giving?
 - Luke 11:13
 - Acts 20:35
5. What principle of giving can you learn in verse 12?
6. What can we learn about giving in the church in verses 16-25? Why is integrity important?