

FOR CLARKSVILLE

FOR CLARKSVILLE, PART 5: GIVE

There's a tension every one of us faces. We say we love God, but we don't honor Him with our money. We live in a culture where an increasingly larger portion of what we have is being spent on things that have no impact on God's purposes. Great stewardship requires being in a position where everything we have is at His disposal.

BIG IDEA: **Loving is always tied to giving.**

The topic of money is discussed throughout the entire Bible. Today we're going to discover that it is impossible to love money and live a life of generosity.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the one thing you would describe as your most valuable possession? Why is it so valuable to you?
2. Why do most people want more money than they already have?
3. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "My money matters are private, it's nobody's business!" Why do you agree or disagree?
4. *With your Bible or Bible App, read Romans 8:31-32.*

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Romans 8:31-32 (NIV)

5. How is God *for* us? How did God demonstrate that He is *for* us? Put yourself in God's place—how would you feel to give your own son or daughter for someone?
6. What is the most extravagant, sacrificial gift someone has ever given to you? When you received it, how did that make you feel?
7. What is the most extravagant, sacrificial gift you have ever given? How did you feel when you gave it?
8. Chris said, "God's love is always tied to giving." Based upon God's love for us, do you agree or disagree? Why? How does Ephesians 5:2, John 3:16, and Romans 8:31-32 support your answer?
9. The first scripture we looked at in week 1 of *For Clarksville* is *Ephesians 5:2, 8-10*.

Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord.

Ephesians 5:2, 8-10

10. How is Ephesians 2 and Romans 8 similar when it comes to loving and giving? The pushback in sacrificing for others is, "They're not worthy of my sacrifice!" How does Ephesians 5:8 destroy that excuse? (*Also, read Romans 5:8.*)

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

11. *With your Bible or Bible App, read Matthew 6:24.* How does your current financial situation affect your relationship with God?

"No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money." Matthew 6:24 (NLT)



12. *With your Bible or Bible App, read Luke 12:34.*

Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

Luke 12:34 (NLT)

- 13. What are some of the “treasures” or possessions in your life currently distracting you from focusing on God? What specific things can you do to remove these distractions?
- 14. Has there been a time in your life when you decided to put your trust in God rather than in money. If so, what did that experience teach you about God?
- 15. *With your Bible or Bible App, read 1 Timothy 6:17-19.*

Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others.
Timothy 6:17-18 (NLT)

For Clarksville:
 Changing the way people **not in church** view **church**.
 How?
 By **doing good** in our community and practicing no-strings attached **generosity**.

- 16. When you grow in your relationship with Christ, it often results in becoming unexplainably content with what we have. Are you more content today than you were last year? How has your relationship with Christ in the last year affected your level of contentment?
- 17. Giving is intended to be a sacrifice. How do you define sacrifice?
- 18. What does your bank account say about your worship? What does your giving say about your relationship with God? What does your giving say about what you believe about the Bible?
- 19. What are excuses that we use to justify not tithing? What excuses are you making to not sacrificially giving to *For Clarksville*?

MOVING FORWARD

As you consider your commitment to *For Clarksville*, ask God to address that tension in you that makes you want to live a life of accumulation rather than a life of sacrifice. Ask Him to truly uncover your heart to see what you *really* love—God and His plans, or *our* comfort.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

What is one thing you can change today in your life that will help shift your focus away from money and possessions and back towards God? What can you do this week to accept and better appreciate the things God has given to you?

- FOUR CHALLENGE:**
1. **Invest** “Get to know your neighbors. You can’t love who you don’t know.”
 2. **Invite** “Choose 4 people that you will be FOR by praying and inviting.”
 3. **Serve** “We show people that we are FOR them by how well we SERVE them. What have I done for Clarksville today?”
 4. **Give** “FOR God so loved that He GAVE. Being FOR is always tied to GIVING.”

CHANGING YOUR MIND

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Romans 8:31-32 (NIV)

