

I Corinthians 16:1-4 Giving, our privilege

Major theme of 1 Corinthians: An inward preoccupation with self.

Summary of Bible: *Love God with your whole heart... love your neighbor as yourself.* The resurrection in chapter 15 give us the motivation to love God with everything. **The prescription for Inward living is Upward and Outward loving.**

2 ways to address selfishness from the text:

1. turn one's attention **to those in need** (1 John 3:17, Prov. 3:27, 2 Cor. 8-especially Jewish brothers and missionaries 3 John 5-8),
2. **Address the hold \$ often has** on our heart as a treasure by giving.

Paul's pattern for giving. (How?)

1. **V.1 Compulsory for the church but not compulsory for individuals.**
 - a. **Willingly, cheerfully,** 2 Cor. 9:5-9
 - b. **Generously like Jesus.** 2 Corinthians 8:7-9
2. **V.2 Regularly. Proportionately-**
3. **V.3-4 Accountably.**
4. **Wisely:** Discern who the truly needy are (1 Timothy 5:3-qualifications).
 - a. **Able to work?** (2 Thessalonians 3:10-12, 1 Timothy 5:8, 1 Thessalonians 4:11).
 - b. **Family to help first?** (1 Timothy 5:3-4).
 - c. **Am I enabling sin?** examine moral conduct before giving support (1 Timothy 5:9-13).
 - d. **Needs or wants?** basic necessities of living (1 Timothy 6:8).
 - e. **Are they engaged in a church community?** Gal.6:10 the household of faith first.
 - f. **Is it an opportunity to minister?**

Why should I give?

1. **It's all from Jesus and all His.** Deut. 8:17-18 *You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth...*
2. **Because Jesus' was generous to us:** 2 cor. 8:9 *Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.*
3. **Generosity reveals our faith:** (Mt. 6:21) Giving is an expression of where treasure/trust are.

Grow Group Questions:

1. What are the implications regarding giving of the quote from last week from CT Studd: *If Jesus Christ be God and died for me there is no sacrifice too great that I can make?*
2. How does being a "steward" rather than an "owner" of all I possess change our thinking?
3. Why did Jesus use money as an illustration or teach about money so often?
4. Describe a time where outward or upward living changed your inward thinking.
5. Read Mt. 6:21. What does an examination of my treasure (time, talents, \$) reveal about what is important in my life? What thing could I adjust this week to be more in line with Jesus command?