Chris Miller

SESSION 1 | 5 PRINCIPLES OF GENEROUS GIVING

I. PRINCIPLE 1: Goal of giving is Generosity, no mere participation (1 Cor. 16:1-4)

"Now concerning the collection for the saints (in Jerusalem)..."

- I am passing on the instructions that I gave to the churches in Galatia;
- Each week when you gather, set aside your offering and accumulate it over time.
- Do this so that when I come, we aren't trying to collect it all at once.
- When I arrive, we will send it with men you know and trust.
- If I have to go, these men will go with me.

II. PRINCIPLE 2: We Give only the Grace You've Received (8:1-2)

Verse 1-2: *"We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches at Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part."*

1 Cor 4:7: *"what do you have that you did not receive?"*

How does this one principle begin to change the way you view giving?

III. PRINCIPLE 3: Grace Works Exponentially

Verse 2 gives us even more insight into generosity as empowered by grace.

- They gave abundantly out of their poverty.
- They gave while under a "severe test of affliction…"
- (They gave out of) "abundance of joy"
- (They gave out of) "extreme poverty"
- (Their giving produced) "a wealth of generosity."

Paul presents it as a mathematical equation: "their abundance of joy + Extreme Poverty = a wealth of generosity.

IV. PRINCIPLE 4: EAGERNESS IN GENEROSITY (8:4-5)

Verse 3-5– *"They gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—and this not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us"*

- They gave according to their means.
- They gave above their means.
- They gave freely
- They begged us for an opportunity to give
- They gave first to the Lord.

V. PRINCIPLE 5: Gospel-Motivation for All Generosity (8:9)

For Christians, generosity flows out of an experience with God's generosity: "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 by his poverty might become rich" (v.9).

Dane Ortland: "(Paul) does not simply recount the gospel. He recounts the gospel in terms of money…He maps the gospel onto the issue at hand, that of finances."

At the center of the gospel is the motivation, "**My life for yours!**"

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