

Generosity

SIMPLY SAID

Generosity is the practice of using money to align our hearts with our eternal treasure.

WHAT DOES OUR MONEY HAVE TO DO WITH OUR FAITH?

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” - *Matthew 6:21*. Do our hearts follow after our treasures, or do our treasures follow after our hearts? The answer is yes and yes. Our hearts and our treasures work off each other. Our money spent displays to us where our heart is set. And our heart’s desires lead us in the way we spend our money. If we want all of life to be all for Jesus, our money and possessions play a large factor. “Our approach to money and possessions is central to our spiritual lives – *Randy Alcorn*.”

WHAT DOES GENEROSITY LOOK LIKE?

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” – *John 3:16*. We give because God first gave to us. Money is a very powerful tool and can either bless or deceive. We must use money to display our hope in an eternal kingdom. Generosity looks like Christians intentionally using their money to bless others over just blessing themselves. It looks like followers of Jesus living below their means to benefit others. It looks like believers sacrificing their desires for other’s needs.

WHAT DOES GENEROSITY TEACH US?

God owns everything - Generosity exposes the façade of our perceived control and power. It is a physical confession that God owns everything, that we cannot take anything with us from this world, and that we are called to be servants, stewards, and managers for this God who owns all.

The path to happiness - “It is more blessed to give than to receive” – *Acts 20:35*. Generosity gets scripture into our lives. The blessings of giving are only known through experience.

Contentment - The more we learn how to give, the more we learn to be content with our current reality.

GENEROSITY PROTECTS US FROM:

The dangers of being rich - “Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God” – *Matthew 19:24*. Riches are dangerous. They can easily lead people to trust in their power over the power of God. And many of us are richer than we know compared to others worldwide.

Greed - One of the most difficult sins to confess is greed because of how present it is in the culture. We need action and practice to free us from the greed in our flesh. Generosity leads us away from greed and toward compassion and selflessness.

The current of the culture - Our money and possessions help us keep up with others and build a particular reputation. The world’s culture says that accumulation leads to a good reputation. Jesus says submission to God and sacrifice for others lead to good character.

HOW DO I PRACTICE GENEROSITY?

Learn - We find resources and environments to teach us how to use our money wisely.

Plan - We pray and decide a particular percentage to consistently and rhythmically give to the church, to the poor, to others, and to the expansion of the Gospel.

Commit - We commit to this plan to watch God use us and provide for us.

Respond - On top of our continuous giving we pray for God to display to us moments and opportunities to give above and beyond.