

God's Generous People

Insights on Romans 12:8&13

Director Brent Oglesby, Grace Point Church, March 18, 2018

Context:

(Romans 12:1-3)

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Changing the Way We Think:

(Romans 12:8&13)

1. This isn't about giving, _____

- It is not how much of our _____

but how much of his

wealth _____

2. Generosity is the key to unlocking _____

- _____ it's all God's and _____

like it's all God's are two different things.

How to be a Trustee:

- Matthew 25:14-30:
- Matthew 25:31-46:
- Luke 12:13-21:
- 1 Timothy 6:17-19:

This weeks discussion guide:

Welcome to "Week 10" of our small group session!

We are glad that you have taken this journey with us digging into God's Word with others. We pray this is a time of growth, encouragement, and fun as you deepen friendships and make new friends along the way!

Looking Back:

Each week we'll look and have an opportunity to share with our group how the week went and also share a few things to help us get to know each other better. What is something encouraging that happened since our last meeting?

1. This week we had the opportunity to talk about generosity. I think we all strive to be generous and often we have been on the receiving end of generosity. Tell a story of someone who has been generous to you.

2. What are some of the most practical ways that you show generosity on a regular basis?

Each week in "looking back," we also want to give each other the opportunity to look back since our last meeting and share how we applied something to our daily lives that we learned or discussed previously from God's Word.

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged you or needs some clarification?

Looking Up:

1. One of the keys to building generosity into our life is learning to be content with what we have. As most of us know, developing this kind of contentment can be a challenge. What insight and hope does Paul give us in moving toward this kind of contentment?

2 Corinthians 6:10, Philippians 4:10-13, Matthew 6:25-27, 33-34

What are your greatest challenges in being content with what you have?

2. The ultimate motivation for generosity is simply a response to the generosity Jesus has poured out on us. Understanding and being genuinely thankful for what Jesus has done for us is often a first step in developing a generous mindset. What blessings from Christ are found in the following verses?

1 Timothy 1:16-17, 1 Timothy 2:3-6, 1 Peter 1:3-5

In light of these blessings, how do we now apply those examples of generosity in our daily lives?

3. It's natural to think that if we made more money, we would be more generous. But studies show that a rise in income doesn't necessarily mean a rise in giving. If you were to come into financial prosperity in the near future, how could the following verses help you be one of the people who actually become more generous?

Proverbs 3:9-10, 15:22, Ecclesiastes 5:10, Matthew 6:19-21

4. It is a lot easier to say that our resources are all God's than to live it out. Our spending often shows us what is most important to us. What are some things getting in the way of you being generous? How can you look at these issues and live generously in spite of things getting in the way?

Looking Forward:

This last section is based on passages like the one below.

But don't just listen to God's Word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the Word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.
James 1:22-25 (NLT)

Let's take a few minutes to silently pray and reflect back on this last week's message and what we discussed in our group. As we reflect, let's all pray and ask God for a specific application that He might prompt us to live out this week. If you are willing, share this with the group.

To help us as we reflect, here are some possible applications to get us thinking...

- Pray through your resources, including your money, and give them all back to God since they are his anyways.
- Look through your bank statements. Based upon where you spend your money what would you say is most valuable to you? Is this what you want it to be?
- Pray about resources that you have which God might have you give away this week.

As we look forward to this week, let's pray for one another!