

40 Days of Community - Part 6 – PT II
LIVING A GENEROUS LIFE
Phil 2:1-4 (MSG)
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For the past several weeks we've been in this series on 40 Days of Community learning about building relationships. God wants us to deepen the sense of community in our natural and church families. It is our responsibility to reach out to the community in fellowship. The Greek word koinonia has several meanings. The one we will focus on is "fellowship". How do we deepen our fellowship with each other? Isn't by living in "koinonia".

- Community - Philippians 4:15 "You became my partners in giving."
- Participation - Hebrews 13:16 "Keep doing good and sharing your resources."
- Contribution - 2 Corinthians 8:4 "They begged us to let them have the joy of giving their money for God's people."
- Generosity - 1 Timothy 6:18 "Be generous and willing to share."

Why does God want us to learn to be generous with each other? There are seven benefits.

A. Generosity creates Community.

- a. 2 Corinthians 9:11-12 (GWT) "Your generosity not only provides for the needs of God's people but also produces prayers of thanksgiving to God."
- b. Mathew 6:21 (NCV) "Your heart will be wherever your treasurer is."
- c. Acts 4:32 (NAB) "the community of believers shared everything in common."

B. Generosity defeats Materialism.

Matthew 6:24 (NLT) "You cannot serve both God and money."

C. Generosity strengthens my faith.

- a. 2 Corinthians 9:13 (Phillip) "Your very giving proves the reality of your faith."
- b. 2 Corinthians 9:6 (NIV) "Whoever sows sparingly will reap sparingly and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."
- c. 2 Corinthians 9:8(LB) "God is able to make it up to you by giving you everything you need and plenty left over to give joyfully to others."

D. Generosity is an investment for eternity.

- a. Luke 16:9 (NLT) "Use your worldly resources to benefit others. In this way, your generosity stores up a reward for you in heaven."
- b. 1 Timothy 6:18-19 (LB) "Tell the rich..." and by the way, that's all of you.

E. Generosity _____ in return.

Deuteronomy 15:10 (NIV) "Give generously and do so without grudging hearts. Then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to."

F. Generosity produces _____.

Acts 20:35 (GN) "There is more happiness in giving than in receiving."

G. Generosity makes me more _____.

- a. John 1: 16 (MSG) "We all live off God's generous bounty gift after gift after gift."
- b. 2 Cor 9: (NLT)7 "You will be glorifying God through your generous gifts."
- c. 2 Corinthians 8:12 (NLT) "If you're really eager to give it isn't important how much you're able to give."

Four Heart attitudes to have:

- i. You give _____. Make up your mind.
- ii. You give _____. Not reluctantly. You don't give just out of guilt motivation.
- iii. You give _____. You don't do it under pressure.
- iv. You give _____. Give cheerfully! Give with joy. The Greek word for offering is the word "hilarious".

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NLT) "You must make up your own mind as to how much you should give. Don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."

The Best Attitudes to have

- b. 2 Corinthians 8:9 (Phillip) "Do you remember the generosity of Jesus Christ, the Lord of all? He was rich beyond our telling yet He became poor for your sake so that His poverty might make you rich."
- c. Acts 15:11(MSG) "We were saved because Jesus out of sheer generosity moved to save us."