



Week 1: Generosity for Generosity's Sake!

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

A. The Point of Giving

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously." 2 Corinthians 9:6 (NIV)

1. Further the Gospel.
2. Build the community.
3. Measure generosity.

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." Luke 6:38 (NIV)

B. The Logistics of Giving

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV)

1. Giving is individualistic.
"Each of you should give..."
2. Giving requires a deliberate choice to love.
"...what you have decided in your heart to give..."

3. Giving must be cheerful.

"...not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

4. Giving must always be about stewarding God's grace.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

C. The Blessing of Giving

"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." 2 Corinthians 9:8 (NIV)

1. The "principle of the firstborn" blessing:
 - a. Helps us celebrate how we have been blessed.
 - b. If the firstfruit is blessed, then the whole is blessed.

"If the part of the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; if the root is holy, so are the branches." Romans 11:16 (NIV)

2. God can bless what we give, not what we keep.
 - a. We all receive the same amount of time.
 - b. We all receive talents according to God's grace in our lives.
 - c. We all receive resources.

3. Jesus was God's tithe.

"But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8 (NIV)

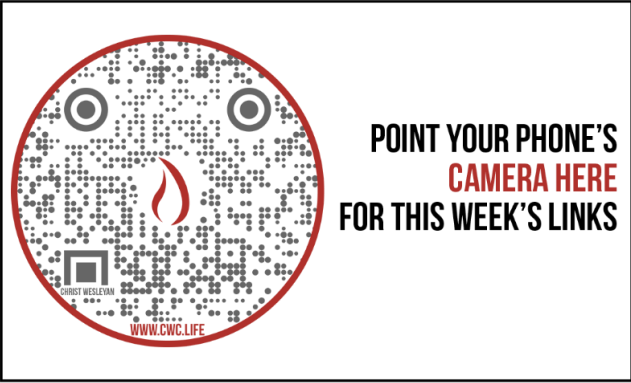
D. The Practicality of Live to Give.

1. The greatest gift we can give anyone is our time. Out of the 168 hours we have in a week, how much time are you giving others? How much time are you giving to God?
2. God has blessed you with a talent or many talents. How are you using your talents to edify others? How much of your talent are you giving to God?
3. God has given you all sorts of resources, and yes, various amounts of money. How much are you giving to others? How much are you giving to God? How much of what you have do you want blessed?
4. "Giving is about living. It is living how we are supposed to live. And giving encourages living...not just for yourself, but it is an investment in the future for yourself and others." Unknown

Defining giving (bottom line): Giving is an intentional expression of thanksgiving to God in three forms: time, talents, and resources.

**To begin a relationship with Jesus...
Text: I Choose Jesus to 570-273-0088**

Next Sunday:
Live to Give (Living a LIFE of Generosity)
Week 2: Malachi 3 (Pastor Ken)



Upcoming Happenings:

- May 1 6:00pm: Local Church Conference**
(Annual Reporting)
The Well Coffee House
- May 7 Mother Daughter Brunch**
Well Fit Gym
- May 15 5:00pm: Annual Church**
Celebration (pre-register!)
Milton Campus
- May 29 5th Family Sunday**
with teen baptisms

Get all the info & register: cwc.life/events

Giving and Attendance Update
Giving last Sunday: 79.8%
Giving year to date: 85.6%
Easter Weekend attendance: 2,811
Salvations to date: 7 | Baptisms to date: 0