

PRINCIPLES OF GIVING

Scripture:

John 3:16; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7; Matthew 6:19-21

John 3:16 NIV "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Romans 12:1-2 NIV Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. {2} Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NIV Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; {20} you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 NIV Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. {7} Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Matthew 6:19-21 NIV "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. {20} But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. {21} For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Introduction

The essence of God's love for us is reflected in the gift He gave to us. He gave His Son to us to become our way to have fellowship with Him, the only way we could have eternal life.

I. The model of God's giving

1 John 4:8-10 NIV Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. {9} This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. {10} This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

A. Gifts of Himself to men

1. The giving of His Son

John 15:13 NIV Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

2. The giving of the Holy Spirit

Luke 11:13 NIV If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

B. The gift of adoption

1 John 3:1 NIV How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

C. Charismatic gifts

II. The principle of the living sacrifice

Romans 12:1-2 NIV Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. {2} Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to

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A. Serving Him with your gifts and talents - TIME TALENT ENERGY

B. Placing your life before him as an offering of love

Philippians 3:8-9 NIV What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ {9} and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.

C. Giving instead of taking

III. Guidelines for giving

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 NIV Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. {7} Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

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A. Give to support those working full time in the kingdom

1 Corinthians 9:14 NIV In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.

B. Give without a flair - give secretly

Matthew 6:2-3 NIV "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. {3} But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,

C. Give consistently and regularly

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 NIV Now about the collection for God's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. {2} On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. (TITHING MEANS TENTH (10%))

D. Give cheerfully

1 Corinthians 9:7 NIV Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Conclusion

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

2 Corinthians 9:12-14 NIV This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. {13} Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. {14} And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you.