

GRACE GIVING VS GRACE TAKING

A PAULINE LESSON ON GRACE GIVING

"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."

~ 2 Corinthians 9:7

1. Why a Lesson on Giving?

- a. Churching is a multibillion dollar industry... this lesson is not because of greed
- b. Paul is careful to avoid blame, covetousness, hindering the gospel – 1 Cor 9:11-12, 15
- c. Paul instructs on giving in 10 epistles, and alludes to it in the other three
- d. Paul prays to perfect that which is lacking - 1 Thess 4:10
- e. Giving is at the heart of grace, and is the only way grace ministry gets done

2. Grace is a Gift

- a. Christ was rich, he became poor; to make you rich - 2 Cor 8:9; Phil 2:6-9
- b. Justified freely, a free gift, the gift of eternal life – Rom 3:24, Rom 5:15, Rom 6:23
- c. The riches of Christ given to us for our benefit – Eph 1:7, 2:7, 3:8, 3:16
- d. We have received grace from God, what is our response to a gift?
- e. What do we owe him? If you say 'nothing', you do not understand what he has given
- f. "to be received with thanksgiving" - 1Ti 4:3-4, 2 Cor 5:14-15, 2 Cor 9:15
- g. We say 'grace', the tip is called 'gratuity', momma said to mind your p's and q's
- h. If it's free, then what's wrong with just taking it?... e.g. free samples at the store
- i. "If you love me, you will provide it for me" is entitlement and not grace at all.

3. Grace Changes You

- a. When you received God's grace it changed you – Rom 5:19, 6:18, Gal 4:7, Eph 5:8-10
- b. There is a time when the parents provide – 2 Cor 12:14-15, then children grow up
- c. When is this? When they understand grace – parents: teach the value of a dollar
- d. Grace changes your life, and should change what you value- 2Cor 8:4-5, 8,16-17, 24
- e. Have you benefited? How do you communicate - Gal 6:2-6, Rom 15:27, 1 Cor 9:11
- f. Philemon 6 – grace works in you when you count the cost of the gift

4. Grace Gives

- a. Are you a grace giver or just a grace taker? Are others paying for you?
- b. When people who take grace do not give it, there is a heart problem – 2 Cor 9:7
- c. "*If any man love God, the same is known of him*" – 1 Cor 8:3
- d. There is a difference between being greedy, and teaching responsibility – Phil 4:14-17
- e. Providing for yourself is maturity, it is what God teaches – 2 Thess 3:10-12, 1 Tim 5:8
- f. Providing for others is charity – it is a grace responsibility – Eph 4:28-29
- g. The greatest of these is charity – 1 Cor 13:13, 1 Tim 1:5, 4:12, Titus 2:2
- h. If you don't have money, you have time, it doesn't take much of either to be gracious
- i. Be a giver not a taker. Minister grace to others. Life is in the giving, not the taking.