

Flourish

Flourishing in Generosity

2 Corinthians 8:1-7
Pastor Brent Sorlien
Sunday 2.7.16

The New Testament moves the conversation about generosity out of the realm of riches, money, dollars and cents—into the realm of my heart, my relationship with Jesus.

1. Generous living has nothing to do with being rich. (:2)

- “most severe trial”
- “extreme poverty
- “rich generosity”

One of the great truths of the New Testament is that we can have a great life; a joy filled, meaningful life—despite our outward circumstances!

If you don't learn generosity when you are poor, you won't be generous when you are rich!

Jesus doesn't tax us—He invites us to partner with him in generosity.

When it comes to generosity—Like everything else in our lives, Jesus is concerned with the deeper, the real issues.

2. Generous Living is a privilege. (:4)

Why is generous living a privilege?

- When I give from what I have, it helps those who need it! It makes a difference. Your faithful giving to Jesus through the ministry of SCC pays eternal rewards!
- Generous living does something good in me.

“Give freely and become more wealthy; be stingy and lose everything. The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.” **Proverbs 11:24–25, NLT**

Generosity is like a muscle; when it is used and exercised, it gets stronger.

3. I can grow in generosity. (:7)

Generous with my time, gifts, skills, stuff—not just money.

“What do I have that Jesus can use to bless someone else with?”

Key: “And they did not do as we expected, but they **gave themselves first to the Lord** and then to us in keeping with God's will.” (:5)

If you see yourself as an owner, not a manager, that is a red flag.

The best question: “Does Jesus have my heart? Fully?”