

How Charitable Are We?

Charity is one of the 7 virtues of Christianity and also has a central place in Roman ethics and Judaism.

Today we are impressed by the concept from a distance without practicing it systematically, and give when moved or have loose change.

At its most basic, Charity means giving someone something they need but can't get for themselves. It's usually considered to be something material and is overwhelmingly associated with giving money.

At its core, Charity goes far beyond finance and recognising that a person needs help with something they can't do for themselves. Their helplessness is not a sign of wickedness or sin but is part of the human condition.

We freely give because we appreciate how often we wouldn't have made it, had not at key points in different contexts, someone cut us some slack.

It's in relationships that charity becomes particularly necessary.

What we are short of is charity of interpretation, that is a charitable perspective on our weaknesses, eccentricities, anxieties and follies. Failings that we are unable to explain or win sympathy for, that we merely act out with immaturity and hurt.

A charitable soul does the work their partner has not been able to do. They do the explaining for them. They understand the person enough to see where their problems, such as impatience etc, come from.

A genuinely charitable person gives generously from a sense that they too stand in need of charity at some time.

Charity remembers how there might still be a lot of goodness amidst a lot of evil.

Charity bears in mind when someone is tired and stressed they can behave appallingly.

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- "It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving." — Mother Teresa
- "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." — Winston Churchill
- "To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded." — Emerson
- "In every act of charity, we are the ones receiving the greatest gift." — Lila Thompson
- "The heart that gives, gathers." — Ella Fitzpatrick
- "No one has ever become poor by giving." — Anne Frank,
- "There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up." — John Holmes
- "A bone to the dog is not charity. Charity is the bone shared with the dog, when you are just as hungry as the dog." — Jack London
- "While we do our good works let us not forget that the real solution lies in a world in which charity will have become unnecessary." — Chinua Achebe
- "That's what I consider true generosity: You give your all, and yet you always feel as if it costs you nothing." — Simone de Beauvoir

It is every man's obligation to put back into the world at least the equivalent of what he takes out of it.

Albert Einstein

The talent for being happy is appreciating and liking what you have, instead of what you don't have. **W Allen**

“The simplest acts of kindness are by far more powerful than a thousand heads bowing in prayer.” **Gandhi**

“I care not for a man's religion whose dog and cat are not the better for it.” — **Abraham Lincoln**

“Love is not patronizing and charity isn't about pity, it is about love. Charity and love are the same -- with charity you give love, so don't just give money but reach out your hand instead.” — **Mother Teresa**

“To ease another's heartache is to forget one's own.” — **Abraham Lincoln**

“Do not act as if you had ten thousand years to throw away. Death stands at your elbow. Be good for something while you live and it is in your power.” — **Marcus Aurelius**

“Charity, if you have the means, is a personal choice, but charity which is expected or compelled is simply a polite word for slavery.” — **Terry Goodkind**

“Do good by stealth, and blush to find it fame.” — **Alexander Pope**

“In charity to all mankind, bearing no malice or ill will to any human being, and even compassionating those who hold in bondage their fellow men, not knowing what they do.” — **John Quincy Adams**

“God damn it, you've got to be kind.” — **Kurt Vonnegut**

“Every sunrise is an invitation for us to arise and brighten someone's day.” — **Richelle E. Goodrich**

“Behold I do not give lectures or a little charity, when I give I give myself.” — **Walt Whitman**

“Then cherish pity, lest you drive an angel from your door.” — **William Blake**

More and more I come to value charity and love of one's fellow being above everything else...All our lauded technological progress-our very civilization-is like the axe in the hand of the pathological criminal. **Einstein**

Money is better than poverty, if only for financial reasons. **Woody Allen**

“There are these amazing little seeds called *compassion*. You should grow some.” — **R. E. Goodrich**

“I distrust official charity. All charity should be done by stealth.” — **Romain Rolland**

“What's the point of doing something good if nobody's watching?” — **Nicole Kidman**

“Our prayers for others flow more easily than those for ourselves. This shows we are made to live by charity.” — **C.S. Lewis**

“Agape love is strengthened by the person who expresses it - not by the person who receives it. In fact, the person who receives agape love does not have to show any appreciation at all.” — **Brian Apollo**