

Christian Generosity I Corinthians 16:1-4

The Church is the priority beneficiary and benefactor of Christian generosity. Therefore Christians should primarily give to and through the Church.

1. Christian generosity prioritizes the needs of the saints.
 - a. 16:1--"the collection for the saints"
 - b. Local saints. Saints elsewhere. Double honor; pauls expectation. Sending.
2. Christian generosity prioritizes church giving over all other types of giving.
 - a. 16:2--"On the first day of the week."
3. Christian generosity should be considered an act of worship.
 - a. 16:2--"On the first day of the week."
 - b. What makes giving an act of worship?
 - i. Response to the grace of God. 2 Cor. 8:1,6-7
 1. God's grace provides the money to give.
 2. God's grace provides the will to give.
 - ii. Expression of trust. 2 Cor. 8:5
 - iii. Expresses and elicits praise and thanksgiving. 2 Cor. 9:12-15

- iv. Magnifies the sacrificial work of Christ. 2 Cor. 8:8-9; 9:15
- 4. Christian generosity is the responsibility of each church and all churches.
 - a. 16:1--"as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do.
 - b. 2 Cor. 9:1-2
- 5. Christian generosity is the responsibility of each Christian and all Christians.
 - a. 16:2--"each of you should store up"
- 6. Christian generosity should be planned.
 - a. 16:2--"first day of the week"
 - i. Regular or consistent
 - ii. Frequent
 - iii. Why first day of the week? Because giving is an act of worship.
 - iv. Why should it be planned? Because if it is not made a priority, then other things take it away.
 - v. Not left to the question of whether or not I have anything left over. How much I give should not be dependent upon how much I have left over.
 - 1. Spending time as a student
 - vi. Principle of the first fruits.

1. Return to God from our first fruits, which means we set aside what is rightly his.
 7. Christian generosity should be sacrificial, yet proportionate to prosperity.
 - a. 16:2--"as he may prosper"
 - b. Christian generosity is the purpose of prosperity.
 - i. Not personal comfort, convenience, etc.
- 2 Corinthians 9:8–11

[8] And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. [9] As it is written,

"He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever."

[10] He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. [11] You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. (ESV)

- c. The example of the Macedonians. 2 Cor. 8:3, 12

- i. Gave within their means--gave what they could afford.
 - ii. Gave beyond their means--went without some things in order to afford more.
 - iii. Cannot give what you do not have (12).
 - d. The first fruits principle: All that we have is God's. God is the provider.
8. Christian generosity is voluntary. There should never be an occasion where it should have to be forced or feel forced.
- a. Under the Old Testament giving was established by law.
 - i. How much was specified.
 - ii. But Under the New Testament, giving comes from a changed heart.
 - b. 16:2--"No collecting after I come"
 - c. 2 Cor. 9:5-- A Promise which he expects them to keep. [willingly entered into].
 - i. Membership: Do you promise to support the church in its worship and work to the best of your ability.
 - d. "Ready as a willing gift, not an exaction."
 - e. 2 Cor. 8:7-- "Act of [God's] Grace"
 - f. 2 Cor. 8:8 -- "not as a command"; "to prove...your love is also genuine."

g. 2 Cor. 9:7-- “Not reluctantly or under compulsion,
for God loves a cheerful giver.”