

Grace Unraveled
Grace in Giving
2 Corinthians 12:11-21

Many people in our cultural context believe that religion is simply another charitable organization looking for a donation. They believe that the church is the mechanism used by preachers to rid widows of their life savings. Unfortunately, in too many cases, they are right. But is there a bigger purpose to giving to the work of the church than to maintain salaries and pay bills? Does God really want our money, or does God challenge us with our money simply to see where our hearts really are?

1. The _____ had purposes beyond religion
 - A. It was evidence of _____ for victory
 - B. It was evidence of being at God's _____
 - C. It was evidence of _____ on God

The way we give to God is by giving to _____.

The way we honor God is by giving from the heart of _____.

2. Our _____ has purposes beyond religion
 - A. It is fueled by a _____ for people
 - B. It is fueled by _____ in our lives
 - C. It is fueled by an _____ to the Great Commission

The gospel doesn't limit giving to an arbitrary percentage. In fact, Jesus gave up everything, all the riches and glories of heaven, to live in a broken world among desperate people. His death wasn't reserved for a percentage of people. It was sufficient for all. The spirit of New Testament generosity is seen in the love and full surrender of Christ at the cross. As His grace is freely offered to us, grace flowing through us is freely offered to others. Generosity is just one tangible aspect of that grace.

The question is not, "How much must I _____?"

The question is, "How much do I _____?"

Reflection

How does your giving reflect the grace of God in your life? How does it reflect your heart for the Great Commission or your passion for people? Is giving to the church a burden or a joy? Do you find yourself using your offerings to manipulate control in the church? Has it become a spiritual barometer by which you measure your own spirituality against others'? What lifestyle changes can you begin making in order to become more generous for the kingdom?