



Grace Fellowship of Morehead, KY

905 Clearfield Street * Morehead, KY 40351 * (606)776-7089 * www.gracemorehead.org

Roamin' In Romans Romans Chapter 12

Romans 12:13 - Heart of Generosity

13 Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.

OKAY: Remember, these things are not what comes naturally to human beings...we've got to:

- * Lay down our flesh
- * Renew our minds

HOWEVER: If we are born-again...these need to be what comes out of our lives.

REMEMBER: It is the overflow of the forgiven soul.

There are two things listed in this verse...even though they sound very similar (they are)...they are both different...

- 1.) Distributing to the necessity of saints
- 2.) Given to hospitality

Distributing to the necessity of saints:

"distributing" – share or give some kind of contribution...financially!

GREEK TENSE: regular, consistent, habitual contributing of necessity.

"necessity" – those in need

Where there is a need in the body of Christ...we need to be helping out.

Given to Hospitality:

"hospitality" – compound word in Greek – philos (friend) and xenos (stranger or foreigner...someone you don't know)

DEFINED: to be friendly or helpful to those who are stranger to you and need help. Outside your normal circle of friends.

"given" – aggressively pursue something; to ardently follow after something; to hotly pursue something until you catch it.

QUICK HIT: In New Testament times there was great mobility among Christians...from nation to nation...from city to city...and NOT a lot of lodging (aka hotels, bed and breakfast, etc.).

DUE TO: Christians being on the run from persecution AND many spreading the Gospel, thus traveling.

They were often found in different cities without any place to stay...**guess what**...Paul says it should be common for Christians to treat other Christians (and non-Christians) in hospitable ways.

NOTE: We can share meals with others...we can even help pay for hotel rooms, etc.

HOWEVER: I think this has much more to do with helping people you don't know (paying for groceries, bills, etc.)

(PASSION) – “Take a constant interest in the needs of God’s beloved people and respond by helping them. And eagerly welcome people as guests into your home.”

Generosity

WHAT IS THE FOCUS of Romans 12:13? Generosity.

IN OTHER WORDS: Whether they are people in the church (local assembly) or people from outside the local assembly...financially take care of them. Consistently...aggressively looking for ways.

BELOVED: It is becoming more and more accepted to FOCUS ON OURSELVES and kind of let everyone else take care of themselves...if I can help, I may help...

Paul is telling the Christians in Rome that they are to aggressively and consistently look for opportunities to give.

When all you do is think of your own needs (what I have to pay this month, etc.) you are fostering...

- * Selfishness (not laying flesh down)
- * Greed (not renewing your mind)

1. Generosity is about Love

WE KNOW: That the Bible is full of promises that come with giving...

Luke 6:38 – give and it will be given to you

Galatians 6:7 – whatever you sow you will reap

HOWEVER: Too often we even give selfishly, because our GIVING is about the RECEIVING and not about the LOVING.

John 3:16 – God loved so He gave...THEN He got the increase.

1 Corinthians 13:3 – LOVE must be at the center of our giving...not the return.

The return or receiving is the PROMISE that comes with giving...not the focus.

Philippians 3:14 – “I press toward the **mark** for the **prize** of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

YOU MUST have a heart that MOVES towards giving...generosity...not just reward.

MARK HANKINS: “If you get addicted to giving, God will support your habit.”

2 Corinthians 9:6-10

6 But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

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

8 And **God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, *always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:***

9 (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever.

10 ***Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown,*** and increase the fruits of your righteousness;)

Generosity SHOULD drive us...not the reward.

Mark 12:41 – “And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and **beheld how the people cast money** into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much.”

THIS PASSAGE is more than just a lesson on what you have left over on giving (which we should learn)...but HOW did she cast it in?

- * Cheefully?
- * Purposefully?
- * Aggressively?
- * Consistently?

2. Generosity Involves More Than Money

Galatians 6:10 – “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”

BELOVED: Yes, this passage is in relationship to giving.

HOWEVER: “*do good*” – is defining any good...financially or actions. Helping others out...in any way.

Give of your money...yes! That is the main way (because it represents your life).

ILLUSTRATION: The lady who gave the precious gift to me (two mugs she had in a box in her basement).

Also, give of your time, resources, talents or even a listening ear.

Providing food...volunteering...etc.

***There are some people who are quick with a buck...
but if you need a volunteer, you are out of luck!***

3. Learning Generosity Brings You Into the BLESSING

Acts 20:35 – “I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

“*give*” – didomi – tense is currently and repeating (habit); and from person to person (mood).

IN OTHER WORDS: it is not more blessing to have given...but to operate in giving constantly.

I HEARD SOMEONE SAY: “I have never met an unhappy generous person.”

Fall in love with GIVING...you will get used to God's supply!