

# LOVE

## Without Hypocrisy

(in the book of Romans)

22 – Sharing with God's people (4)  
> Love, doing good and sharing <

# Genuine LOVE...

We learn what it is from God's Word.



OTHERWISE, WE WILL NEVER "UNLEARN" THE  
DEFINITION THE WORLD HAS TAUGHT US.



EXAMPLES



## GOD'S LOVE FOR US (A PATTERN TO FOLLOW)

This is **love**: not that we have  
loved God, but that he loved  
us and sent his Son to be the  
payment for our sins

1 John 4:10 (GW)

## OUR LOVE FOR GOD

To **love** God means that we obey his  
commandments. Obeying his  
commandments isn't difficult  
because everyone who has been  
born from God has won the victory  
over the world.

1 John 5:3-4a (GW)

## EVEN LOVE FOR ENEMIES

But I tell you this: **Love** your enemies,  
and pray for those who persecute  
you. In this way you show that you  
are children of your Father in  
heaven.

He makes his sun rise on people  
whether they are good or evil. He  
lets rain fall on them whether they  
are just or unjust.

Matthew 5:44-45 (GW)

Everything we do must be controlled  
by this type of love.

The entire law is summed up in  
a single command: "**Love**  
your neighbor as yourself."

Galatians 5:14 (NIV)

And everything you do must be  
done with **love**.

1 Cor. 16:14 (NLT)



This will include  
sharing the good news with others.

For Christ's **love** compels us, ...

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as  
though God were making his appeal  
through us. We implore you on Christ's  
behalf: Be reconciled to God.

2 Cor. 5:14a, 20 (NIV)

Though not our emphasis today, this is very important.  
To not do this is a form of hatred toward the unsaved!  
It's like telling them we want them to "go to hell!"

### Love for God includes

(among other things)

#### ✓ A willingness to strive for moral purity

To **love** God means that we obey his commandments.

1 John 5:3a (GW)

#### ✓ A willingness to love people (saved and unsaved, even enemies)

Whoever says, "I **love** God," but hates another believer is a liar.

1 John 4:20a (GW)

But I tell you this: **Love** your enemies, ...

Matthew 5:44a (GW)

### Love for people includes

(among other things)

#### ✓ Doing good to others (especially to Christians)

So then, as we have opportunity, let us **do good** to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Galatians 6:10 (ESV)

#### ✓ Encouraging others to do good

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward **love** and **good deeds**.

Hebrews 10:24 (NIV)

## In recent weeks, we have been talking about **SHARING?**

How is **SHARING** related to **LOVE** and **DOING GOOD**?

**Share** with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Romans 12:13 (NIV)

### Ways that **SHARING** may be related to **LOVE** and **DOING GOOD**:

#### ✓ It may be an expression of "love"

**Love** must be sincere. ...

**Share** with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Romans 12:9a, 13 (NIV)

#### ✓ It's often connected with "doing good"

Don't neglect to **do what is good** and to **share**, for God is pleased with such sacrifices.

Heb 13:16 (HCSB)

### But certain types of **SHARING** are NOT related to **LOVE** or **DOING GOOD**.

★ In this passage, NOT sharing is related to doing good!

**NOT SHARING!**

**DOING GOOD!**

For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.

As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in **doing good**.

2Thes. 3:10, 13 (ESV)

### Ways that **SHARING** is NOT related to **LOVE** or **DOING GOOD**:

#### ✗ ✓ Sharing in sins that others commit.

Do not participate [share] in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.

1 Tim. 5:22b (ISV)

#### ✗ ✓ Types of sharing that encourage sin.

If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.

2Thes. 3:10b (ESV)

Would you share some food with me?

❌ ✓ **When the person doesn't qualify.**

No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the saints, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds.

As for younger widows, do not put them on such a list. ...

1 Tim. 5:9-11a (NIV)

❌ ✓ **Also, it's not the church's duty to do what the individual is obligated to do.**

But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God.

If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

1 Tim. 5:4, 6 (NIV)

**When Scripture tells us to share, it normally describes it as the duty of individuals.**

- ✓ The Bible doesn't tell people to hand their obligations over to the church.
- ✓ [This does not mean that the church (as a group) was never involved.]

(Last time, we looked at some instances in which the church (as a group) was involved. This mainly had to do with needy Christians who were outside the individual's circle of acquaintances.)

? **What if?**  
someone isn't willing to share,  
at times when Scripture says we should?

**Share** with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Romans 12:13 (NIV)

**It is a strong indication that they are not saved.**

- ✓ It shows us that they have denied the faith.

But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith, and is worse than an unbeliever.

1 Tim. 5:8 (NASB)

- ✓ It shows us that their faith is dead.

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can his faith save him?

If a brother or sister is without clothes and lacks daily food and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well," but you don't give them what the body needs, what good is it?

In the same way faith, if it doesn't have works, is dead by itself.

James 2:14-17 (HCSB)

✓ **Religious leaders in Jesus' day committed this sin.**

In his teaching Jesus also said, "Watch out for the experts in the law. They like walking around in long robes and elaborate greetings in the marketplaces, and the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets.

**They devour widows' property, and as a show make long prayers. These men will receive a more severe punishment."**

Mark 12:38-40 (NET)

❖ **The reward for such people? Eternal punishment.**


**A "WAKE-UP CALL"?**

Some types of sharing are *sinful*?


Not sharing can mean you're unsaved?

I've never heard some of these things before!


Then we can use it as an opportunity to **grow**!



**As we read and study the Bible...**  
(together and individually)



- **We will grow** in our understanding of love, doing good, sharing, times we should/shouldn't share, etc.
- **We can encourage each other as a group** – so that our sharing becomes more like what God says it should be.



**We will learn that there are times when we are not to share ...**



Can you spare a few dollars for some whiskey – I mean, to feed my starving children?

**Don't "feel guilty" when you obey Scripture and say "No"!**

**Parable of the Good Samaritan – Luke 10:25-37**

A genuine need!

No thanks. We've got religious things to do!

... and there will be many other times when **we can** (and must) share!



THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN.  
But a certain Samaritan, as he passed, saw when the Jews, and when the Samaritan, he had compassion on him, and went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to his inn, and took care of him. - Luke 10:33, 34.

~~OUR~~ **Your Mission...**  
(We can't do it by ourselves!)

★ **ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER!** ★

We must also consider how to encourage each other **to show love and to do good things.**  
Hebrews 10:24 (GW)

**>> THEN, TOGETHER, WE CAN ALL GROW! <<**

**THIS OFTEN INCLUDES SHARING**



# Your Mission...

"Share with God's people who are in need.  
Practice hospitality."

Romans 12:13

## HAVING A SPIRIT OF GENEROSITY!

*God requires his people to be generous.  
Sharing is just one aspect of this generosity!*

### Generosity is a moral obligation.

- It will characterize the life of someone who belongs to God (Psalm 37:21, 26).
- Unsaved people may do generous things for various reasons; but they will *not* do it in a way that honors *God*.
- People who *claim* to be saved, but aren't willing to be generous, have *denied* the faith (1 Timothy 5:8; see also James 2:14-17). We have no reason to consider them saved, even though they may be faithful churchgoers.

### The effect of God's generosity on those who are saved:

- It is because of *God's* generosity toward his people (Titus 3:5-7; also Matthew 10:8b; 1 Corinthians 2:12; Ephesians 1:6), that *they* can be generous toward others.

- *All* of God's people can be generous in one way or another, because the Spirit of God lives inside them and makes it possible. For some, it may even be a special gift (Romans 12:8)!
- Even the *poor* among God's people can have a generous attitude (sometimes even with money - 2 Corinthians 8:1-2).
- Surprisingly, it is the *rich* who have the most difficulty in being generous (and in following Jesus in any other way).

### The plight of the rich.

- It is sad to say, but rich people tend to be less generous than poor people. God often condemns the attitude of rich people in Scripture.
- Scripture even singles them out with specific commands (1 Timothy 6:17-19), or even condemnation (several times in the book of James), because they are so often guilty of *not* having a generous attitude.

### A GUIDING PRINCIPLE FOR ALL OF LIFE:

*All that we have belongs to God (Job 41:11b; 1 Chronicles 29:11). God will hold us accountable for **what** we do with it (our actions) and **why** we do it (our motives).*

## SCRIPTURE PRINCIPLES ABOUT GENEROSITY

Scripture has much to say about helping and giving to others. If we examine the various instructions and examples given, we can probably summarize them with the following principles:





## SCRIPTURE PRINCIPLES ABOUT GENEROSITY

### 1) Who should do it:

- It is primarily the duty of the *individual*, not the church or community.
- The individual is in the position of knowing if a family member or neighbor has a genuine need.
- Instances in which Scripture describes the *church* as being involved are mainly related to helping needy Christians in other localities (Romans 15:25-26), or (if it is a large group) helping Christians who would be outside an individual's circle of acquaintances (Acts 6:1-4).

### 2) Our motivation:

- Sharing must be done with the right motives and from the heart. It is to be done as an act of *love* for both God and people.
- It is not to be done as a bribe or enticement (in hope of getting something in return), or to impress other people. (Ananias and Sapphira learned this the hard way - see Acts chapter 5.)
- Hypocrisy is also condemned, as illustrated in Proverbs 23:6-7 (which warns about the person who pretends to be generous, but who is actually stingy at heart).

### 3) What should it accomplish?

- Generosity was never intended to be a "get rich quick" scheme for the poor. It involved helping others with their basic needs, not promoting a luxurious lifestyle.

### 4) The need for accountability.

- "Blind handouts" are never encouraged. Carelessly giving out money is an expression of *folly*, not of God-honoring *wisdom*. (Besides, it is *God's* money that you're using. Or misusing.)
- It is sin to enable another person to indulge in sinful behavior. For instance, Scripture tells us to *not* to give food to the lazy (2 Thessalonians 3:10), or provide lodging for false teachers (acting like traveling evangelists, needing a place to stay, 2 John 1:10-11). Nor should we allow our generosity to be a means of enabling any other type of sin, such as drunkenness, etc.
- When we use God's resources to enable someone to sin, *we share in that person's guilt*.

### 5) Who should receive it?

- Specific obligations to share belong to specific people. Generosity begins with the needs of one's own family (physical family and/or Christian family).
- This does not mean that we totally ignore the needs of other people. But our primary responsibility is to care for our own family - and we are not to pass that obligation off to someone else.

### 6) What about helping unsaved people?

- Scripture does not tell us that we should *never* help unsaved people (if they qualify, etc.). After all, helping one's physical family may include helping unsaved people.
- We need to remember the priorities Scripture gives us. We are not

to neglect our *first* obligation - caring for the needs of family (physical and/or spiritual)!

- Scripture tells us that our *primary* obligation toward the unsaved is to share God's Word with them. If we refuse to do this, we have refused their *greatest* need; and any other help will not be pleasing to God. (It would be helping them the way an *unsaved* person does it.)

### 7) About the receiver (obligations and qualifications):

- Scripture presents a variety of instructions and examples which teach us when to give and when not to give to someone. Under the section about "accountability," we saw some instances in which giving should *not* be done.
- Even when a person qualifies, there may be times when the *receiver* needs to exert some effort in obtaining what is being given, rather than lazily sitting back and waiting for it to come. In the Old Testament, for instance, grain was left in the fields for the poor (Leviticus 23:22); *but the poor had to be willing to go out and get it!*
- It must be remembered that a generous spirit is a moral obligation for *all* people. A poor or needy person may be unable to be generous in some ways, but there are *many* ways to display a spirit of generosity and love. If they *claim* to be saved, encourage them to *live* it!

### 8) What about "forced generosity"?

- Helping done out of coercion is *not* an expression of generosity! However, a generous spirit can be displayed by going *above and beyond* the "bare minimum" that is being required. (This principle is the basis for the expression, "going the extra mile" - Matthew 5:41.)

### 9) Qualifications of the giver.

- God-honoring generosity is only possible for a follower of Jesus, because it begins with a desire to honor *God*. Scripture reminds us that we must do *all* to the glory of God, not just *some* things (1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:17)!
- An unsaved person *cannot* give or be generous in a way that honors God, because he excludes God from his actions. His "goodness" is counterfeit, and bears only a superficial resemblance to what God accepts as genuine - even though people may temporarily benefit from it.
- Some "humanitarian" organizations controlled by unsaved people welcome participation by Christians, *as long as the Christians are willing to exclude God from what they do*. For a follower of Jesus, omitting God is *not* an option!

### 10) To maximize the value of our generosity.

- The world may offer gimmicks and incentives to encourage acts of generosity. We do not need this, because *God* has already given us the greatest possible incentive: *love*.
- If we want to maximize the value of our giving, it's very simple! All we need to do is to *first* give (or "re-give") ourselves to *God*, before we give ourselves (our time, our possessions) to *people*. We can follow the praiseworthy example of the Macedonians, mentioned by Paul, in 2 Corinthians 8:1-4.