

## SERIES DISCUSSION GUIDE

### GENEROSITY - THE GRACE OF GIVING CHAD BRUEGMAN SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

If you would like to watch the message, visit [rpc.me/messages](https://rpc.me/messages).

#### LEADER

You go first:

- Introduce yourself.
- How long have you been attending RPC?
- Describe your family.

Have everyone introduce themselves using the same questions.

#### ICEBREAKER

- If you could time travel, would you rather:
  - Visit the past
  - Visit the future
- Where would you most like to go on vacation?
  - Beach
  - Cruise
  - Mountains
  - Sightseeing
  - Theme park
  - Staycation

#### MESSAGE RECAP

This week's message begins a 3-week series on the Biblical view of money. God does not need anything from us but He wants things for us and one of those things he wants to give us is peace and freedom that come with generosity.

#### MAIN POINTS

- The tithe (meaning In Hebrew Is "Tenth"). Under the old covenant the tithe was associated with blessings and curses. In Malachi 3:6-12 It Is described that when Israel held back from the Lord then God would consider them as robbing him.
- The first fruits offering (Proverbs 3:9-19). Again, under the Old Covenant Israel was expected to give to god the firstfruits of all their crops.

- Under the New Covenant Jesus says that he had not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets, much of which the tithe and firstfruit requirements fell under, but rather Jesus came to Fulfill them (Matt 5:17).
- This is why Paul says in 2 Cor 8:1-9 that he is not commanding that the Corinthians to be generous but he prays that they see through the grace filled and sacrificial giving of the Macedonians that God doesn't want anything from you, he wants this for you.
- Paul compares this generosity to Jesus and says, "for you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich."

## READ

2 Corinthians 8:1-9 and 9:6-12

## QUESTIONS

- Chad began his message by describing the different way each of his children handled the \$50 they were given for camp snacks. Jude spent most on other campers and gave the remaining \$15 to charity, Jane rationed it out over the week and then asked for the balance in cash, and Ben spent 100% on candy for himself. Which approach do you most identify with as it relates to your finances?
- What was your view of tithing growing up? Did your parents do it? Did they expect you to do it? Was it seen as a privilege to give to God's work or as a demand?
- When Jesus says that he did not come to abolish the law but to fulfill it, what does that mean for us as it relates to giving to the church? Is a tithe a command that has blessing or curse associated with it? [No, Jesus took all the curses of God upon himself on the cross. It is no longer a part of the covenant that we must tithe but while Jesus fulfilled the law he also showed us in his actions and deeds his own generosity that we are now called to emulate.](#)
- Chad said that God does not want anything from you but He wants something for you. What do you think that means?

## APPLICATION QUESTION

- What is one "a-ha" you will take from the weekend message and our discussion?
- How will you apply the message to your life this week?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER:** your closing prayer could include the following:

1. *Gratitude.* Thank you, Lord, for giving us this time together to study Your Word.
2. *Acknowledgment of "a-ha" moments.* We are so grateful for the new awareness and insights you gave us today.

3. *Request for help throughout the week.* As we go back to our homes, families, and workplaces, please remind us of what we've learned today and give us the courage and strength to obey whatever You are calling us to do. Amen.

**LEADERS:** Please take attendance and follow up with anyone who did not attend this week.

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