

## **We Highly Value Holistic Generosity**

*September 10, 2023*

**Text:** Deut 10:17-19; 15:7-8, 10-11; Prov 19:17; Heb 13:16; Jas 1:27

### **God is the Pattern for our Generosity**

- How has God been generous \_\_\_\_\_?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God's generosity.

### **The Nature of Holistic Generosity**

- Holistic generosity is an \_\_\_\_\_.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Holistic generosity is rooted in our \_\_\_\_\_.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Holistic generosity is expressed without regard to \_\_\_\_\_.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Holistic generosity is our shared \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Life Enrichment**

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What about today's teaching challenged, disturbed, or encouraged you?

- Outside of the sacrifice of Jesus, what is the most generous gift you have ever received? How did it make you feel to receive it? Did receiving it change you in any way? How?
- List at least three ways God has been generous to you recently. How does His generosity make you feel? How does it change the way you live and relate to others?
- Consider the ways Jesus was generous to people in the Gospels. What are the lessons we learn from His example of generosity?
- Why do you think that it is important to see generosity as a whole life quality, not limiting it to financial giving?
- What role does attitude play in generosity? Why is that important?
- When so much of life has strings attached, why do you think it's important for Christians to be generous without expecting anything in return, including behavioral changes in those who receive?
- How can generosity serve to demonstrate the gospel to our community? What are the ways you intend to be generous this week?

## **Core Value 4 - We Highly Value Holistic Generosity**

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Holistic generosity is a grateful response to God's loving generosity toward us. That means that generosity is more than giving finances. It includes generosity of time, abilities, resources, encouragement, and gratitude. Generosity is present when we advocate for justice, act compassionately, and offer hospitality. It is done without respect to receiving a reward or a return. God is generous toward us, and in turn, we are generous with others in tangible ways.

### **Key Points**

- Generosity begins in the loving heart of God and is developed as we grow ever closer to Him.
- God's generosity is offered to those who cannot repay Him and to His enemies.
- As recipients of God's loving generosity, we seek ways to demonstrate His character by being generous to others.
- Holistic generosity seeks to bless the whole person with tangible acts of justice, compassion, and hospitality.
- Generosity points others to the love of God for them found in the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ.

### **Key Scriptures**

- **Deuteronomy 10:17- 18** - For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing.
- **Deuteronomy 15:7-8, 10-11** - If anyone is poor among your fellow Israelites in any of the towns of the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward them. Rather, be openhanded and freely lend them whatever they need... Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to. There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore, I command you to be openhanded toward your fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land.
- **Proverbs 19:17** - Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done.
- **Hebrews 13:16** - And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.
- **James 1:27** - Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.