

POWER.FULLY.WEAK.

July 25, 2021

2Cor 8:1-9, 15

"Gospel Generosity #1:
Ourselves"

8:9 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 by his poverty might become rich.

2 Corinthians 8:1-9, 15

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, ² for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³ For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, ⁴ begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— ⁵ and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. ⁶ Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace.

⁷ But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also.

⁸ I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. ⁹ 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 by his poverty might become rich.

¹⁵ As it is written, “Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack.”





Unified Generosity

² for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³ For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, ⁴ begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints ⁵ and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us

Poverty + Joy = Generosity

“Begging for the favor...”

**“Gave Themselves”
(first to the Lord)**

How & Why

⁹ 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 by his poverty might become rich.

Matthew 5:3

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
or theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”





**Dusty & Courtney
Morgan**

Before God, and for His glory, I unite with you in the covenant of marriage. As we share life together, I promise to love and honor you, sacrificing all else to preserve unity and partnership between us. Through each joy and trial that awaits us, I will seek to encourage, serve, support, protect, laugh with, and pray for you. I promise to let God's Truth light the path before us, that we may walk in His love and share it with others. May our community see me love you selflessly, as Christ gave Himself up for us. I will be faithful to you-- in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health, as long as we live.

Made to Give Ourselves: to God

but they gave themselves first ***to the Lord***
and then by the will of God to us

To the Lord

Matthew 16:24

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”

⁸ I say this not as a command, but to **prove** by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine.

It's Who We Are

It Glorifies God

It's A Joy



Made to Give Ourselves: To Each Other

but they gave themselves first to the Lord
and then by the will of God *to us*

To Each Other

⁷ But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also.

15b “Whoever gathered much had nothing left over,
and whoever gathered little had no lack.”

Gospel Growth Produces Outward Love
Outward Love Produces Gospel Growth



Why I Hold Back

Before the world, and for my glory, I unite with you, God, in the covenant of acquaintance. As we share life together, I promise to love and honor myself, sacrificing all else to maximize my enjoyment, comfort and public image. Through each joy and trial that awaits us, I expect you to encourage, serve, support, protect and comfort me. I promise to have My Truth light the path before me, that I may do what feels right. May our community not see how I don't love you selflessly, as Christ gave Himself up for me. I won't be faithful to you-- in plenty nor in want, in joy nor in sorrow, in sickness nor in health, as long as I live.



Why I Hold Back

It doesn't cross my mind
I Love Control
Don't Trust Him



1 Cor 6:19

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.



Excerpts from The Epistle to Diognetes (AD 130)

“They dwell in their own countries, but simply as sojourners. As citizens, they share in all things with others and yet endure all things as if foreigners. Every foreign land is to them as their native country, and every land of their birth as a land of strangers. They marry, as do all others; they beget children; but they do not destroy their offspring. They have a common table, but not a common bed. They are in the flesh, but they do not live after the flesh. They pass their days on earth, but they are citizens of heaven. They obey the prescribed laws, and at the same time surpass the laws by their lives. They love all men and are persecuted by all. They are poor yet make many rich; they are in lack of all things and yet abound in all. They are evil spoken of and yet are justified; they are reviled and bless; they are insulted and repay the insult with honor; they do good yet are punished as evildoers. To sum it all up in one word -- what the soul is to the body, that are Christians in the world.”

Revelation 7:9-10

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”



The Heidelberg Catechism (1563)

Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A. That I am not my own, but belong— body and soul, in life and in death— to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.