

## **Parkview Embraces Radical Generosity.**

Radical Generosity is an appropriate response to the Gospel which displays God's great love which is freely, generously, and sacrificially given to us. We are convinced that "Radical Generosity" changes lives—our life and the lives of the people we're reaching. Radical Generosity applies to all aspects of our spiritual walk; yet Jesus indicates that there is an undeniable connection between our heart and how we handle our treasure.

Our giving is a very important aspect of Radical Generosity. The New Testament commands that giving should be an act of worship, a source of great joy, proportionate, regular, done willingly, generously, and sacrificially!

## **What Is A Good Starting Point for Radical Generosity?**

If a person is looking for some direction in what initial goal of giving may be appropriate, 10% may serve as a good starting point for Radical Generosity. Even though it is not mandated, we would like to suggest to start by giving the first 10% of your income to the local church because it is a tangible indicator that we are putting God first in our lives, Matt. 6:19-24.

It is important to note that New Testament believers in Jesus Christ are not under law but under grace. The Bible teaches that grace is far more generous than the outward demands of the Law. Thus, we see this pattern of "Radical Generosity" illustrated throughout the New Testament in passages such as the poor widow's offering, the parable of the talents, the parable of the rich fool, the rich young ruler, and many others. What is very clear in the bible is that it is more blessed to give than to receive, and that God loves a cheerful giver!

Parkview would encourage you to take an "Radical Generosity" giving challenge. One example of a giving challenge comes to us from the Old Testament in Malachi 3:10-11, in which the Israelites were invited to "test the Lord". Parkview is not trying to motivate you to give because you will profit financially but we believe radically generous people will be blessed in a multitude of ways!

Parkview would challenge you to begin with giving 10% for a three month period to help you get started giving in a way that will not only please and glorify God, but will positively impact your life, the mission of Parkview, as well as the lives and ministries of others.

## **Key Passages to Consider:**

**God owns it all:** Exodus 19:5, Lev. 25:23, 1 Chron. 29:10-13, Job 41:11, Psalm 24:1-2, 1 Cor. 6:19-20, Matt. 13:45-46

**God gives abundantly and we should strive to be like Him:** John 3:16, 2 Cor. 9:15, Matt. 6:19-34, Matt. 11:29-30, 1 John 5:3,

**We should be faithful and generous stewards:** 2 Cor. 8-9, John 6:1-14, Rom. 12:1, Luke 6:38, Luke 12:15-21, Luke 16:1-13, 1 Tim. 6:6-19

**God blesses Radical Generosity:** Ex. 25 and 36, Psalm 144:12-15, 2 Cor. 8:2-5, 2 Cor. 9:6-15, Matthew 6:32-33, Phil. 3:7,

## Radical Generosity FAQ's

### 1) What are the basic purposes for money?

- To provide for basic needs. Mt. 6:11, 31-33, 1 Tim. 6:8
- To help in confirming direction. Heb. 11:7 (faith versus presumption); 1 Tim. 6:9, 17; Rom. 5:3
- To give to others (See document on Radical Generosity)
- To illustrate God's power. Mal. 3:10, Psalm 50:15
- Money is not an end in itself. Money is God's and we are chosen to be stewards of His possessions. Money can be viewed as a vehicle which translates time into assets or translates assets back into time for our good, God's glory, and the good of others.

### 2) What are the overall guidelines for the use of money?

- What really are my needs and how will the Lord supply my needs? Matt. 6:31-33
- God will supply our needs in accordance with His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Phil 4:19
- Normally the Lord will supply our needs through our work. We are to make it our ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to our own business so that the Lord will supply an abundance above our needs in order to do every good deed. 1 Thess. 4:11-12, 2 Thess. 3:10, 2 Cor. 9:8

### 3) What should my attitude be then toward money?

- My Lord promises to meet my needs... (Phil. 4:19)
- And I am to be content...(Phil. 4:11, 1 Tim. 6:8, Heb. 13:5)
- While working... (1 Thess. 4:11-12, 2 Thess. 3:10)
- Which provides abundance for my needs, God's glory, and for the good of others. (2 Cor. 9:8)

### 4) What should my attitude be toward radical giving?

- In faithful eagerness and abundance. 2 Cor. 8:2-8
- Purposefully, prayerfully, and willingly. 2 Cor. 9:7, Ex. 35:5
- I must see all giving as investing with God. Lk. 6:38, Mt 6:19-21, 2 Co. 9:6

### 5) Will my giving really make a dent in the needs?

- Biblical giving is always more than enough. 2 Cor. 9:12, Ex. 36:5

### 6) Where is a good place to start?

- Just as there was required giving in the Old Testament, there is also required giving in the New Testament. We are to pay our taxes (Mt. 17:24-27, 22:15-22, 23:23) and we are to freely and joyously give as the Lord has given to us. Even though there is not a command in the New Testament to tithe, it's probably a great place to start (being careful not to limit yourself to the tithe based on every positive example Jesus uses in the gospels, and every example given in the epistles).

### 7) Should I also give to things outside of the local church? What are examples?

- The needs of neighbors (strangers who have a legitimate need, a need you can meet) Lk 10:29-37, Gal. 6:2
- To the poor. Matt. 25:31-40, 1 Tim. 5:10, Isa 58:7

- Opportunities to expand the gospel. Luke 16, Acts 1:8
- 8) Should I prioritize giving to the local church?
- Yes. Just as we must take care of our family needs first (otherwise we disqualify ourselves and become worse than an unbeliever), our local church family needs should take priority over other opportunities to give. Acts 4:32-37, ...
- 9) Should I faithfully steward my money and possessions to please my family, my church, and/or the people I can positively influence?
- While our giving does bless the church, our family, people in need; and expand the gospel; ultimately “we play to the audience of one.” Our primary motivation is at the end of our life to hear the Lord Jesus Christ say to each one of us, “...***Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.***” (Matt. 25:21)
- 10) How do we avoid legalism and instead give from the heart?
- The danger of giving guidelines for our giving can be interpreted as legalism. Unfortunately, in anything we do in our Christian walks- worship, Bible study, or serving with our talents, gifts, and finances, legalism can creep in. However, conversely, as Randy Alcorn has stated, "legalism can be a convenient label to cover our unwillingness to obey God."
  - The danger of legalism can be avoided by giving from a heart on fire for Christ.
- 11) What does it mean to "give from the heart"?
- First of all, it doesn't mean giving only what we "feel like".
  - It starts with grasping what it means to "live from the heart"- as 2 Cor 5:15 states, this means no longer living for ourselves, but for Him who died for our sakes and was raised. God can have our money and not have our hearts, but He cannot have our hearts without having our money- in fact if He has all of our heart, we recognize ALL that we have is His, and earnestly desire to be good stewards and to use all that we have, including our time and resources, as He leads. If we want to keep our heart in the right place, we continually need to ask ourselves where our treasure is (Matt 6:21)- in God or the world? When we love something or someone, we don't need external motivation to spend money on that object or person, we need to restrain ourselves from spending too much. We don't ask "How much do I have to give?" We ask, "How much do I get to give?" If Christ gave to the point that it cost Him his life, can we give to the point where it changes our life? 2 Cor 8:9, Rom 5:6
  - If we can comprehend only a fraction of what it means that Christ became "poor" for us, that He died for us- that He didn't just give until it changed His lifestyle, He gave until it cost Him His life, and that He continues to give to us, that all we have is a gift from God; and then to have that understanding guide us in what we give back to God of both our financial resources and time, legalism would not be an issue. The outpouring from our hearts would far exceed any amount a legalist would say we should be giving. (See also Deut 8:18, Ps 116:12, Rom 11:35-36, 1 Chron 29:14-17)

We can always search the scriptures to find excuses for why we could give less, but the bottom line is that we can never out give God, and whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.