

## **Ecclesia: Generous**

### **Acts 2:42-47**

#### **SERMON POINTS**

- **The autonomous Heart as Authority**
- **Culture as Authority**
- **The Scripture as Authority**

#### **KEY TAKEAWAYS →**

- Christians are called out of isolation and called into community.
- Christians are called out of consumerism and called into commitment.
- Christians are called out of autonomy and called under the authority of the Bible.
- **Christians are called out of selfishness and called into generosity**

#### **Sermon Points:**

#### **THREE TRUTHS ABOUT GENEROSITY**

1. God is the ultimate giver
2. God owns everything we have
3. Generosity requires intentionality

#### **QUESTIONS:**

**Q:** Who is the most generous person you have ever met? Describe them. Are they among the most or least joyful people you have ever met?

**Q:** Read Acts 2:42-47. What did generosity look like in that first Christian Church? Try to imagine what a community that dedicated to generosity would be like.

**Q:** The average American gives a little over 2% of their annual income to charity. Why keeps people from living lives of generosity? What are the spiritual factors? What are the emotional factors? What are the practical issues?

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**Q:** A wise/biblical formula for living is to give 10% of what you make (be generous); save 10% of what you make (be wise); and live on 80% (be content). It takes great intentionality to live this way. What are the obstacles to living like this?

**Q:** Have you ever been able to work out of debt (credit card debt in particular)? What did it require (practical steps)?

**P:** Americans tend to give spontaneously, sporadically, and sparingly. Those who give spontaneously tend to spontaneously keep more. Those who give intentionally tend to intentionally give more.

**Q:** How does the gospel fuel us towards generosity? Some Christians say, “Well we are no longer the law—it’s all about grace, so I don’t have to give.” How would you answer that? See the Tim Keller quote below.

#### **OTHER SCRIPTURES:**

##### **2 Corinthians 9:7**

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

##### **Deuteronomy 8:17-18**

Beware lest you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.’ You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

#### **QUOTES:**

**Tim Keller**~ “But we cannot assume that the generosity Jesus expected of his disciples would be below that expected of Old Testament believers. As a legal requirement, tithing probably passed away with much of the rest of Jewish ceremonial regulations. But for the sake of our growth in character and our life in community, the *Christian* practice of giving would have to be strengthened over what we see in the Old Testament. Surely we have greater privileges, greater knowledge, greater power, greater intimacy, and greater joy than our ancestors in the faith. How then could we be expected to be *less* generous with our possessions?”

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#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

-Students grades 6-12 are invited to fall retreat at Christopher Creek from October 27-29. Cost is \$50 per student. Sign up online.