

CHARACTER COUNTS

GENEROSITY

BIG IDEA: God's generous grace moves us to be generous.

DATE: Sunday, September 20, 2026

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 8:1-9

OPENING QUESTION

Who do you see as a poster child for generosity?

SETTING THE STAGE

2 Corinthians. Corinth was one of the most prominent cities in the world in Paul's day. Located in the Roman province of Achaia (the southern part of modern-day Greece) along some major land and sea trade routes, it was a metropolitan city that drew people of various backgrounds and religions from all over the world. Paul founded the church at Corinth about AD 50–52 during his second missionary journey (Acts 18:1-11).

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Corinthians 8:1-9 (CSB)

¹ We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that was given to the churches of Macedonia: ² During a severe trial brought about by affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.

³ I can testify that, according to their ability and even beyond their ability, of their own accord, ⁴they begged us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in the ministry to the saints, ⁵ and not just as we had hoped. Instead, they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us by God's will. ⁶ So we urged Titus that just as he had begun, so he should also complete among you this act of grace.

⁷ Now as you excel in everything—in faith, speech, knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love for us—excel also in this act of grace. ⁸ I am not saying this as a command. Rather, by means of the diligence of others, I am testing the genuineness of your love. ⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ: Though he was rich, for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.

DISCUSSION

How would you define generosity?

READ: 2 Corinthians 8:1-2

Why do you think Paul is sharing this story of generosity?

What is the relationship between joy and generosity?

What role does generosity play in our stewardship?

How have you seen our church, a ministry or a LifeGroup be generous?

READ: 2 Corinthians 8:3-6

Why do our motivations matter when it comes to giving?

How have you learned to be generous? When have you been stretched? What do you find challenging about giving?

READ: 2 Corinthians 8:7-9

Generosity Check

- When I have the opportunity to be generous, do I view it as a “get to” or a “have to”?
- Do I give according to my ability?
- Do I seek to give “even beyond” my ability?
- Do I see an opportunity to share the needs of others as a “privilege?”
- Do I give as a response to the generosity I’ve received through Jesus?

As the enormity of Christ’s grace becomes real to me, my heart is crushed. As I consider this great exchange—how Christ became poor for me so that I could become rich—I’m overwhelmed by how blessed I’ve become. A lifestyle of generosity then becomes my natural response.

RESPONSE

God’s generous grace moves us to be generous. Think of a Christian who embodies generosity. Don’t simply use financial giving as an indicator but look for those who freely share their time, their attention, or their ideas with others. Generosity in one area often extends to another. Ask the person this question: “What moves you to share things in your life with others the way that you do?” Then ask the Lord to show you tangible ways you can be generous this week.