



**What Is Generosity?
Psalm 49:15-19
March 2, 2014**

Introduction:

The biggest task I have this year as we approach the subject of generosity, is to de-program our entire way of thinking when it comes to generosity. If Clements Baptist Church is to grow into an even greater ministry, then we must learn how to invest our resources into the Kingdom for ministry purposes. We will never be able to *form* vision until we learn how to *fund* the vision.

Pastor Tim:

I strongly oppose fund-raising, but I am in favor of teaching people to give. Fund-raising is what I call collecting money from people in return for a product. But in giving, we simply challenge people to give out of their resources for spiritual reasons. The result of fundraising is that *funds* are collected. The result of teaching people to be generous givers is that *disciples* are developed.

A Working Definition of Generosity:

Generosity is at its core a lifestyle, a lifestyle in which we share all that we have, are, and ever will become as a demonstration of God's love and a response to God's grace.

Pastor Tim:

How we understand the role of generosity in our lives, and in the Christian communities in which we do life together, perhaps says more about our faith and our understanding of the gospel than any other single aspect of our faith.

Four Most Important Words in my Life:

1. Lordship
2. Relationships
3. Discipleship
4. Stewardship

Three Related Words:

1. Time
2. Talents
3. Treasures

Food for thought:

Greed is a heart disease. Generosity is heart transformation.

Two Special Closing Verses:

1. Ecclesiastes 5:10-20

2. Ecclesiastes 6:2



Jon Bloom:

“The state of your soul depends on what occupies your mind. If self is occupying your mind, forget peace, and contentment. You don’t find those in a vacuum of needs and sinful cravings. And forget loving others. A self-preoccupied soul might like the idea of being viewed by others as loving but ends up finding others obstacles that plugs up its craving vacuum.”

