

Generous Living and Generous Giving
I Timothy 6:6-10
March 30th, 2014

The best antidote for materialism is generosity.

Mother Teresa:

"Let us not be satisfied with just giving money. Money is not enough, money can be got, but they need your hearts to love them. So, spread your love everywhere you go."

As sure as a compass needle follows north, our hearts will follow our treasure. Money and treasure always lead; and our heart always follows.

I. The Proper Attitude for Those Who are Not Rich

I Timothy 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

Contentment is more valuable than the things we acquire because of our discontentment.

We all miss money that we misspent. We all miss money that we waste or poorly invest. But you never miss money given to meet a need in someone else's life.

Andy Stanley – How To Be Rich:

"The problem with words like Godliness and generosity is that they're as hard to define as the word rich. In fact, just as nobody thinks he's rich, everybody thinks he's generous. Nobody really thinks of himself as stingy or greedy. Generous is one of those words that's open to interpretation. And that's one of the reasons rich people are so bad at being rich. There's no real grading system for it. It's like PE class in high school. You're pretty much guaranteed a passing grade just for having a body."

In the same way, if you've ever given a dollar to a homeless person, or directions to a tourist, or a smile to a stranger, you can rightfully consider yourself generous."

Three P'S That Lead to Generous Living and Generous Giving:

1. Priority

I have determined the best way for me to make giving a priority in my life is for the very first deduction of my income to be to this church and the Kingdom of God. It comes out before my mortgage, food, and especially entertainment.

2. Percentage

Andy Stanley:

"Bible writers have a lot to say about the tithe, which means tenth. For some people, that's extremely uncomfortable. But so is a prostate exam, and those save countless lives each year."

3. Progressive

Every disciple should make it their aim in life to raise the percentage of their giving as often as possible starting with 10%. As your financial situation in life changes, change your giving percentage along with it.

Andy Stanley:

"Generosity isn't just something you ought to do. It's the vaccination against allowing hope to migrate, becoming arrogant, and basically being bad at being rich. Generosity isn't just something you do when you have more. It's something you practice constantly so you'll know what to do when you have more. It's part of a plan, not just an overflow of the heart. It's a preventative against the side effects of being rich."

Being generous doesn't just come natural; we all have a sinful selfish nature inside of us; however, being generous doesn't mean taking a vow of poverty either. The Bible's command for us to be generous isn't because God wants our money, but because God doesn't want our money to have us.

Abraham Maslow:

"What is necessary to change a person is to change his awareness of himself."

I have learned that seeing, equals need. In days gone by, we replaced things as they wore out, or when they became broken. Today however, we replace things when a newer version becomes available. We upgrade! And when do we upgrade? When we become aware that the upgrade is available. Once we are aware of the opportunity to upgrade, we start justifying our reasons for upgrading. Once we become aware of what we don't have, we become hopelessly discontent.

II. The Proper Attitude for Those Who Desire to Be Rich

I Timothy 6:9 But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.

John Wesley:

"When I have money, I get rid of it quickly, lest it find a way into my heart."

Three Dangers Rich People Have to Beware of:

1. The Love of Money is Deceptive

Verse 9a those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare...

John MacArthur:

"It is hard to imagine a sin that has not been committed for love of money. Such love causes people to indulge themselves, show off, distort justice, take advantage of the poor, lie, cheat, steal, and murder."

2. The Love of Money is Destructive

I Timothy 6:9 But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.

Notice all of Paul's Warnings:

- **Falling into temptation**
- **Falling into a trap**
- **Being controlled by harmful, habit-forming desires**
- **Plunging headfirst into ruin**
- **Plunging headfirst into destruction**
- **Wandering from the faith**
- **Piercing ourselves with many grief's.**

3. The Love of Money is Dangerous

I Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith.

III. The Proper Attitude for Those Who Are Rich

Four Dangers to Avoid:

1. **Don't become conceited**
2. **Don't become haughty**
3. **Don't become useless**
4. **Don't become selfish**