

The Blessing of Self-Sacrifice

Assignment: Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-24

Outline:

I. The Source of Sacrifice (2 Corinthians 8:1-9)

The Macedonians' Example (2 Cor. 8:1-5)

The Apostle's Encouragement (2 Cor. 8:6-9)

II. The Exercise of Sacrifice (2 Corinthians 8:10-15)

Willingness (2 Cor. 8:10-12)

Means (2 Cor. 8:12-15)

III. Precautions in Sacrifice (2 Corinthians 8:16-24)

The Collectors (2 Cor. 8:16-23)

The Contributors (2 Cor. 8:24)

Starter Questions

1. How did God speak to you through this passage?
2. What questions came to mind as you read this passage?
3. How is my life going to be different from reading this passage?

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Potential Discussion Questions

1. Why is giving to others the will of God? What keeps people from giving as generously as the Macedonians did? Would God ever want us to give money or resources that we need for ourselves? Why or why not?
2. What would you see as needs today that should cause believers and churches to take up a “collection for the poor” saints? What will you do to give “beyond your power”?
3. Why do people tend to covet money and hoard it to use for themselves? Why and how would a sincere love of God and others change that tendency?
4. How is giving to those in need an exercise of the grace of God in a believer’s life? Why should we be willing to do without something we want to help people we’ve never met and may never meet?
5. What external reasons or improper motives make people give? Why does attitude make a difference in our giving, first to God and then to us?
6. What truth(s) do you think Paul wanted the Corinthians, and us, to see in 2 Corinthians 8:15? How might believers overextend themselves financially and cripple their giving?
7. Are there any times, people, or causes to which God might not want us to give? Explain. How would we know when our impulse to give is God-ordained or self-induced?
8. In what specific ways should we conduct our lives so that we are above reproach and our actions bring glory to the name of Christ? How can we encourage fellow Christians to maintain such high reputations?
9. Why is it important to finish what we start for Christ?
10. Is there any way to determine the motive(s) behind self-sacrifice? If so, what? If not, why not?

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