

BACK TO BASICS

The Generous Spirit - Part A Luke 6:37, 38

INTRODUCTION

- DIVINE COMMAND
 - Don't judge
 - Don't condemn
 - Forgive
 - Give generously
- CONDITIONAL PROMISE
 - You won't be judged
 - You won't be condemned
 - You will be forgiven
 - You will receive generously

PRINCIPLE #1: The way you treat others will determine how God treats you.

DON'T JUDGE / DON'T CONDEMN (Luke 6:37a)

- What this doesn't mean (cf. 1 Corinthians 5:12; Galatians 6:1)
- What this does mean
 - Judge = Set yourself up to critique the moral worth of another person
 - Condemn = Pass pitiless, harsh judgment on another without taking into consideration any reasons for forbearance

PRINCIPLE #2: AGAPE love does not allow for judging or condemning others... even those who are hostile toward us.

PRINCIPLE #3: To be able to give grace, you must first grasp grace yourself. (Romans 8:1; Matthew 5:7)

FORGIVE / BE GENEROUS (Luke 6:37b-38)

PRINCIPLE #4: The measure with which we measure in our dealings with others will be employed by God in His dealings with us. (2 Corinthians 9:6-8; Mark 4:24b)

ENEMIES OF A GENEROUS SPIRIT

- ① Greed / Idolatry (Luke 12:15; 16:13; Colossians 3:5)
- ② False sense of security (Proverbs 11:4; 18:11)
- ③ Selfishness (Luke 12:16-21 – Rich Fool)
- ④ Fear (Acts 5:1-11)

DEVELOPING A GENEROUS SPIRIT

- Options regarding our relationship with God
 - ① God is not a part of your life
 - You are in control
 - ② God is a little part of your life
 - You are still in control
 - ③ God is a growing part of your life
 - You are wrestling with God for control
 - ④ God is your life
 - God is in control

WHAT DOES A GENEROUS SPIRIT LOOK LIKE?

PRINCIPLE #5: Biblical Stewardship = Organizing your life in such a way that God can spend it.

- Example of Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)

LifeGroup Questions - Doing Life Together

Week of May 20-26, 2018

BACK TO BASICS

The Generous Spirit - Part A

Luke 6:37, 38

Sermons can be viewed online at creeksideeg.com/sermon

Questions are based on the NIV translation of the Bible

PRAYER

Begin your time together by praising God and asking Him to guide the discussion of your group. Thank Him for His *agape* love and the opportunity you have to show *agape* to others.

MY STORY

1. Describe a time when you were on the receiving end of someone's generosity. Did it surprise you? How did it make you feel?

DIGGING DEEPER

2. What from Sunday's message stood out to you or gave you new insight into developing a generous spirit?
3. **Read Luke 6:37,38.** What things are Christians to do and not to do according to these verses? Why does God tell us to do certain things and avoid other things? How does **Luke 6:31** fit in?
4. How is God's *agape* love connected with being able to live out the instructions in **Luke 6:37,38**? Explain the statement "In order to give grace, a person needs to grasp grace."
5. Check the items in the list below that often mark the lives of judgmental people. What would you add to the list?
 They tend to be critical of people with whom they disagree.
 They tend to be complainers.
 They rarely give compliments or express gratitude.
 They seem to lack contentment in life because of their negativity.
 Other _____

6. Why is it easy for all of us to slip into a judgmental and condemning spirit? How can seeking to be more humble and merciful help us avoid this tendency?
7. What would you say to the person who makes the assertion that Christians are never to judge? What do the following verses teach regarding judging?
Matthew 18:15-17

1 Corinthians 5:12,13

1 Corinthians 11:27-31

8. Check the items in the list below that often mark the lives of forgiving and generous people. What would you add to the list?
 They tend to be encouragers.
 They look for the good that others have done rather than pointing out faults.
 They understand just how much God has forgiven them.
 They view all of their resources as belonging to God.
 Other _____
9. When we are forgiving and generous, who is the greatest beneficiary; us, our enemies, the church, or society in general? Explain.
10. According to Sunday's message, what are the enemies of a generous spirit? Can you think of others? What can believers do to eliminate these enemies from their lives?

TAKING IT HOME

11. What steps do you feel led to take to develop a more generous spirit? What's one thing you can do this week to be more forgiving and ?

PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray for the needs of your group and ask God to help you show more of God's love to those around you.