

July 24, 2016 We Will Give by Dr. Richard Rogers 1 Timothy 6:17-19 (<u>Listen Online</u>)

THE BIG IDEA

If we want to be a church of people who live outward focused lives, we must be people who practice selfless sacrifice and generous living. Because we know that everything we have has come from God, our lives as Christians must be marked by a consistent willingness to give of what we have. We practice this kind of generous living within the church so that it might overflow into our community.

START A CONVERSATION (Use this to begin a Conversation that Matters with your kids, coworkers, spouse, or someone in line at the grocery store. Then, <u>tell us about it</u>.)

• Who is the most generous person you know? What characteristics or habits do you admire about them?

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- For what reasons can we say that "generosity" and "sacrifice" should be two words that describe Christians?
- What is something you collect or save? How could those things you've been storing up be used to benefit the body of Christ?
- How does the way you handle your resources (money, time, talents, etc) display the gospel? How do your habits benefit those in your church, family, workplace, and city?
- Think of a time someone went out of their way to be generous with you. What was the effect of their generosity on you and on your relationship with them?
- What thing(s) would change about the way you handle money if generosity became an important part of following Jesus in everyday life?

GO DEEPER

- Randy Alcorn, author of <u>The Treasure Principle</u>, tackles the question of <u>how much</u> <u>Christians should give</u> according to biblical standards.
- Kent Hughes and David Mathis talk about why we can say that <u>generosity is a sign of our salvation</u>. They argue that Christians transformed by the gospel will necessarily be people who give sacrificially.
- Take a look at how generosity was on display in the home of Martin and Katharina Luther.
- Dan Olson identifies nine marks of a generous giver.

LIVE IN LOVE THIS WEEK

Consider someone in your life who would benefit from your generosity this week. In what way(s) can you demonstrate the sacrificial love of Christ to that person? What do you have that you can give them? If you're reading this with others, identify together who you might bless as a group. If you have young children, invite them to join you in blessing someone.

