

Imagine

Part IX: Grace-onomics

All We Are... All We Have... All For God!

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Deuteronomy 15:10 (MSG)

Give freely and spontaneously. Don't have a stingy heart. The way you handle matters like this triggers GOD, your God's, blessing in everything you do, all your work and ventures.

"Whoever believes that giving is an easy matter, makes a mistake; it is a matter of very great difficulty, provided that gifts are made with wisdom, and are not scattered at haphazard and by caprice... he will give of his wealth, as one who rightly remembers that he must render account no less of his expenditures than of his receipts; he will give of it only for a reason that is just and defensible, for wrong giving is no other than a shameful waste; he will have his pocket accessible, but it will have no hole in it — a pocket from which much can appear and nothing can drop." Seneca, First Century Roman philosopher & statesman

Proverbs 3:9-10 (NLT)

⁹Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce. ¹⁰Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine.

Grace-onomics

1) Giving Is _____ by God

Matthew 6:1-4 (NLT)

¹Watch out! Don't do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven. ²When you give to someone in need, don't do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get. ³But when you give to someone in need, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. ⁴Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

"We must not be troubled by unbelievers when they say that this promise of reward makes the Christian life a mercenary affair." C.S. Lewis

Romans 11:35 (NIV)

"Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?"

2) Giving _____ Grace

2 Corinthians 8:7 (NCV)

You are rich in everything—in faith, in speaking, in knowledge, in truly wanting to help, and in the love you learned from us. In the same way, be strong also in the grace of giving.

Proverbs 11:24 (MSG)

The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller.

Mark 4:25 (MSG)

Generosity begets generosity. Stinginess impoverishes.”

3) Giving _____ Greed

Matthew 6:24 *“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.*

Mark 12:41-44 (NIV)

⁴¹Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. ⁴²But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. ⁴³Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. ⁴⁴They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything--all she had to live on.”

“I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. In other words, if our expenditure on comforts, luxuries, amusements, etc. is up to the standard common among those with the same income as our own, we are probably giving away too little. If our charities do not all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small. There ought to be things we should like to do and cannot do because expenditure excludes them.”

–C. S. Lewis, Mere Christianity