



27 June 2025

Generosity

Tucked away in the Laws God gave Israel we read,

“Now when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. And you shall not glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the needy and for the stranger. I am the LORD your God.”

(Leviticus 19:9-10)



A few verses later we find the motive for this action, “you shall love your neighbor as yourself” (18).

The first thing to note is that this was God’s command to Israel. Farmers and gardeners today are not under this command.

But the underlying, motivating principle is timeless: generosity. We are to be willing to give, to share with others and not be selfish, not to be tightfisted. To paraphrase we could say, “When God blesses you financially, don’t spend it all on yourself and yours. Share, invest some of it in others, especially the poor and needy.”

Some of us have gardens and fruit trees that produce more than we can use, and are glad to share with others. You have heard stories about communities where you have to make sure your car is locked in the summer or you may find a crop of zucchinis in it when you return. *Such generosity!*

Generosity is a godly character trait. God is generous with us. You know some of the many texts that tell us this. Recall just a handful.

“God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

“You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9).

“God is able to make all grace overflow to you, so that, always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed” (2 Corinthians 9:8).

“My God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19).

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him” (James 1:5).

Because God is generous out of love, so we also are to be generous out of love. The apostle Paul instructs those who have been blessed materially

“to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life” (1 Timothy 6:18-19).

And the writer of Hebrews tells us, “do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased” (13:16).

Generosity can be expressed in limitless ways. It includes but goes beyond material things. For starters,

Be generous in your attitudes toward others.

Give time to listen.

Volunteer, not only in church, but in the community.

Mentor.

Provide a ride.

Tell others what you appreciate and are thankful for in them.

Donate blood.

Donate clothes, furniture, household items you no longer use.

Be patient with others.

And the list goes on.

Also keep in mind the apostle Paul’s words,

“You will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.” (2 Corinthians 9:11).

Be generous! Cultivate generosity!

Pastor Lyle