

Kenmore Baptist Church Message Outline 3 April 2016 (John Robertson)

Generosity – 1

A Generous God

God's amazing generosity to His creation is one narrative woven throughout Scripture. From creation to the fall to redemption and ultimately glorification, God's generous nature to His people should motivate us to follow His example. Because He is a generous God, we should be generous people.

We want KBC to be a church where the regenerate work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, moves us with genuine love and compassion to the needs of others, reflecting the generous nature of a generous God.

gen·er·os·i·ty (noun) - the quality of being kind, understanding, and not selfish : the quality of being generous; especially : willingness to give money and other valuable things to others

For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. Colossians 1:16 (NIV)

The generous nature of God is woven into our existence, whether we love him or not.

1. GOD THE FATHER GIVES US JESUS

The generosity of the Father is seen in Him sending the Son. (John 3:16-18)

Two things become extremely important for us to understand about how God sending the Son marks His generosity in our hearts and lives. (Romans 8:3-4)

- Jesus fulfils all the righteous requirements of the law.
- Salvation belongs to God and God alone, and it is Christ alone who justifies by grace through faith.

2. JESUS LAYS DOWN HIS LIFE

No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father. John 10:18 (NIV)

Just as Christ had been generous by laying His life down of His own will - we too become imitators of this humble laying down of our lives. (Matthew 20:25-28)

- Jesus gives His life as a ransom for many
- We are being conformed into the image of the Son, what we're being conformed into is a greater and greater dying to self
- The paradox is that greatness is found in a humbling of oneself. Yet our culture is consumed with an exaltation of self

3. THE HOLY SPIRIT BRINGS GIFTS TO THE CHILDREN OF GOD

If we have received salvation from Christ, we have been given the gift of eternal life from God. So, in a very fundamental way, we have already been shown great generosity. The least we can all do is use these gifts to help others in need. (Corinthians 9:11)

The generosity of the Spirit is Himself as a gift to us.

God sends the Son. The Son lays down His life. The Holy Spirit brings gifts to the children of God for the common good. This generosity now is displayed through the work of the Spirit in each of us. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

- Holy Spirit redeems our intuitive gifts and brings them to be at work for the benefit of others - generosity.
- The Holy Spirit brings new gifts.
- We need each other. He has uniquely wired you and gifted you for the good of all of us.
- The outworking of these gifts is then also bears the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). The whole context of these fruits is the generosity of Holy Spirit working in us for the generous benefit of others.

Discussion Questions:

1. Discuss what it looks like to be generous. Share examples of recent generosity that have been shown to you.

2. In reflection from Easter, discuss again the significance and importance of both God the Father giving the Son and Jesus laying down His own life as a generous act.
3. How is it that God through the Holy Spirit has gifted you to be a generous blessing to others?
4. How can you increase in being generous towards others and thereby reflect the nature of a generous God?