



Pastor Toby Locke
Week 17
5/20/18

Thinking Right-Side Up
In an **Upside-Down** World

...about Generous Giving

(Philippians 4:14-19)

Introduction: It's awkward to talk about money in church, isn't it?

Why is Generous Giving Important?

- Generous giving CONNECTS God's family together! (4:14-16)
 - When we give, we share each other's TROUBLES.
 - When we give, we share each other's MISSION-WORK.
- Generous giving produces eternal RESULTS! (4:17)
 - When we give, we bear FRUIT.
 - ⇒ Godly Character.
 - ⇒ Ministry Impact.
 - When we bear fruit, we are REWARDED for it.
- Generous giving is WORSHIP. (4:18)
- Generous giving proves you TRUST God. (4:19)

Conclusion: Giving generously isn't a burden; it's a joy, a privilege.

FIRST BAPTIST HORSEHEADS LIFE GROUPS



Debrief Plan: 5/20/2018

Icebreakers:

1. What is a gift you received that REALLY meant a lot to you, & why?
2. If you were offered the opportunity to give \$1,000,000 away, with the only provision being that you could keep nothing for yourself, would you have fun, and how would you give the money away?

Sermon Summary: Paul was thrilled to see the generosity in his friends at Philippi because their generous gifts strengthened his relationship with them and produced eternal results. Even more than that, Paul was excited because he understood that their gifts to him were actually expressions of worship to God that proved how much they trusted God to take care of their needs. We need to think about giving like THAT!

Discussion Questions: (*Read Philippians 4:14-19 together.*)

1. Why do we get uncomfortable when discussing our relationship to money in a church context?
 2. Why do you think the Bible talks SO MUCH about financial matters?
- * **Generous Giving Connects God's Family Together**
3. Have you seen generous giving strengthen your relationship with the person you gave to? Have you seen it damage your relationship? If you've seen both, what do you think made the difference?
 4. Do you find it easier to be on the giving end or the receiving end of "generous giving"? Why?
- * **Generous Giving Produces Eternal Results**
5. How does God display his generosity to us?
 6. Is the desire to gain eternal rewards for generous giving a good or a bad motivation for giving generously?
- * **Generous Giving is Worship**
7. Do you ordinarily think of worship as "costly"? What "costs" are involved in fully giving yourself to worshipping God today?
- * **Generous Giving Proves that You Trust God**
8. Can you remember a time when God provided for you after you decided to give a generous gift to someone else? Tell us about it!
 9. Read Matthew 4:1-4. What does the OT quote in verse 4 mean?