

Welcome to the
Connecting Class
Connecting with God
Connecting with His Church
Connecting with His World
 Through
Exposition of light in Scripture
Experience of life in community
Expression of love in ministry
apttoteach.org

2 Corinthians
 8:1-6
Generosity

Why do Christians give?

Why do Christians give?



Need driven

Why do Christians give?



Need driven



Blessing driven

Why do Christians give?



Need driven



Blessing driven



Duty driven

Why do Christians give?



Need driven



Blessing driven



Duty driven



Worship driven

2 Corinthians 8

“1 Now, brethren, we wish to make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia, 2 that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality. 3 For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability they gave of their own accord, 4 begging us with much entreaty for the favor of participation in the support of the saints, 5 and this, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God. 6 Consequently we urged Titus that as he had previously made a beginning, so he would also complete in you this gracious work as well.”

2 Corinthians 8

“1 Now, brethren, we wish to make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia.”

Generosity is not so much a response to the needs of others as it is a witness in response to the Grace of God.

2 Corinthians 8

“² that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality. ³ For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability . . .”

Generosity
is not proportionate to our material wealth
but to the wealth of our heart.

2 Corinthians 8

“³ . . . they gave of their own accord, ⁴ begging us with much entreaty for the favor of participation in the support of the saints,”

Generosity
is not so much a response to the requests of others
but is assertive in its desire to give.

2 Corinthians 8

“⁵ and this, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God. ⁶ Consequently we urged Titus that as he had previously made a beginning, so he would also complete in you this gracious work as well.”

Generosity
is not so much a matter of sharing our stuff
as it is a matter of giving ourselves.

Malachi 3:8-10

“Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say ‘How have we robbed Thee’ In **tithes and contributions**. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you! ‘Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this, ‘says the Lord of hosts, ‘if I will not open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you a blessing until there is not more need.’”

The **Old Covenant tithe system**

10% Priesthood (Levites)



Numbers 18:21

“And to the sons of Levi, behold, I have given all the tithe in Israel for an inheritance, in return for their service which they perform, the service of the tent of meeting.”

The **Old Covenant tithe system**

10% Priesthood (Levites)



10% temple (sacrifices)



Deuteronomy 12:17-18

“But you are not allowed to eat within your gates the tithe . . . (reserved for the temple service).”

The **Old Covenant tithe system**

10% Priesthood (Levites)



10% temple (sacrifices)



10% charity (the poor)



27%

Should Christians tithe?

(a parallel issue)

Should Christians honor the Sabbath (**Saturday**) and keep it holy (**refrain from working**)?

(Three guidelines)

- The tithe is mandated under the Old Covenant but not under the New Covenant .
- The New Covenant calls for more than a tithe from most of us - (equality).
- We should not stand in judgment of those who do or do not practice tithing.

How can I practice “Biblical giving”?

- ✓ Start by **acknowledging** that I am a steward of what I have been given.
- ✓ Give my **heart and life** and the other stuff will take care of itself.
- ✓ The tithe can be a good **tutor** if I am not giving.
- ✓ Give until it “**feels good.**”
- ✓ Take the **initiative** in being an eager, joyful, giver.

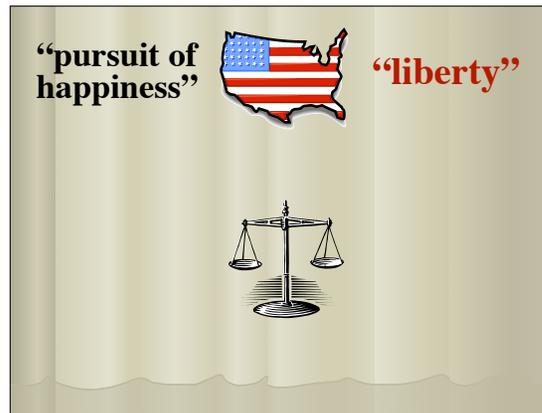
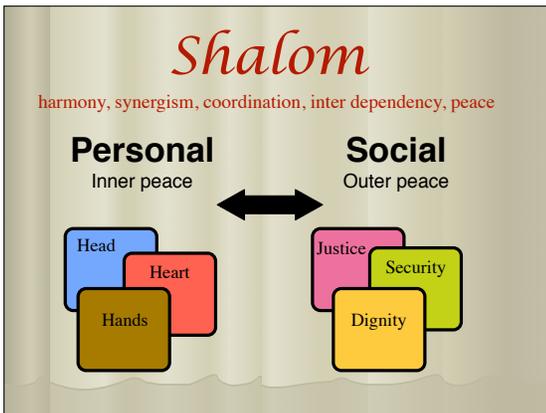
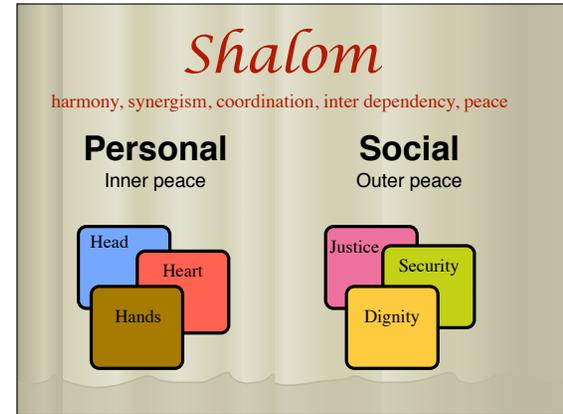
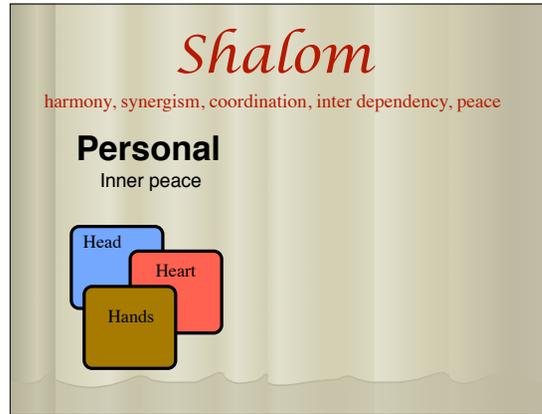


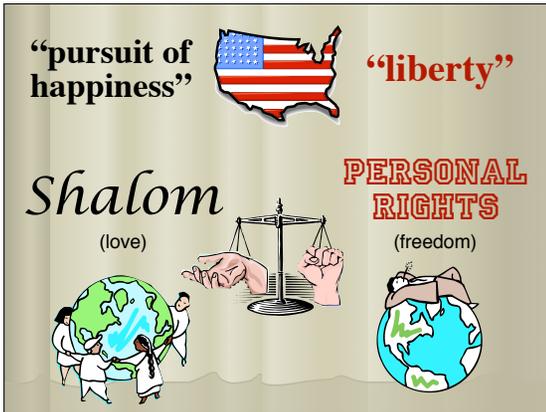
- ### You might be a generous giver if:
- ✓ You take time off work to be with a friend at a time of great pain or joy in their lives.
 - ✓ You gladly disclose your finances with those to whom you are accountable.
 - ✓ You take the initiative in seeking out needs, so that you can give your, time, money, and prayer.
 - ✓ You willingly share financial resources with a person in need without a tax deduction.
 - ✓ You take the initiative to throw a party in honor of another.
 - ✓ You count it a great honor to sacrifice for the well-being of others.

- ✓ You welcome the help of others who seek to minister to you.
- ✓ You put the needs with others above your own personal comfort.
- ✓ You find great satisfaction and joy in the giving of yourself to the benefit of the larger community.
- ✓ You see the needs of others as opportunities and invitations to minister to them.
- ✓ You treat your spiritual family like your biological family when it comes to offering assistance in areas of need.
- ✓ You make giving a priority in the management of your time, treasure, and talents.

Shalom

harmony, synergism, coordination, inter dependency, peace





**Who should take
the initiative?**

**Those who
understand grace.**

**What do our
churches need?**

Living sacrifices.

**How is the Gospel
spread?**

Gracious living!

**How much
should I give?**

**How spiritually
rich am I?**