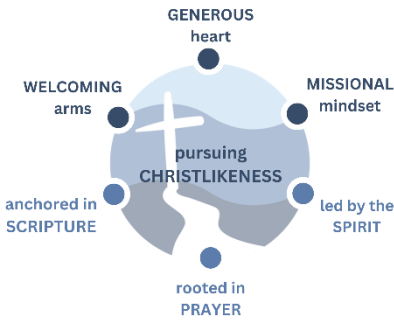


Living our Values... Growing our Culture

Week 1: Generous Heart



Opening Questions

- What are the values you live your life by?
- Where have these values come from?

Over this sermon series we are going to reflect on the values we have adopted for our team of churches over the last year and think about how we can live those values out both individually and corporately.

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

Questions (choose some from):

- 1) Read the description of the Macedonian churches (v1-5) generosity. What do you notice from Paul's description of their generosity? How do you think you would have responded in their situation?
- 2) v4 talks about the '**privilege** of giving' and partnering with other churches and Dave in his sermon talked about the 'privilege of partnership.' How do you see it as a 'privilege'? Is that the way that you see our partnerships with others?
- 3) How are we as a church and individuals partnering with others now? Have you any reflections on those partnerships? What might God be saying?
- 4) Read v9. What does this say about the generosity and example of Jesus? Why does Paul bring this into his argument here?
- 5) v13-15. What principles are outlined in these verses about giving and the purpose of generosity. What might God be saying to you as an individual and us as a church through this?
- 6) Read Acts 4:32-37. What strikes you about the generosity of the Early Church? Why do you think they lived this way (especially consider v33)? How can you as a life group live more in this way?

Respond and Encounter:

Some suggestions:

- 1) Dave in his sermon encouraged us to think about generosity and being 'blessed to be a blessing' in several different areas:
 - Through our finances
 - Through our resources
 - Through our time
 - Through our gifts/skills
 - Through our actions

Take a time of silence and offer these things to God. How does God want to encourage you and affirm you for having a generous heart already. Is there a particular area which he wants to take you further in this journey of generosity? Offer that to God in prayer and you might like to share your responses in small groups together.

- 2) Take time to pray together for those we are partnering with – other churches in our team, our town; our mission partners. Pray that God would continue to show us how we might be 'blessed to be a blessing' to them.
- 3) Reflect together on God's generosity to us by sending Jesus to die for us. You might like to play a song like 'When I survey the wondrous cross' (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kimLXNhzZMA>) and then take time to thank God for his generosity to you. And then pray for each other that we would in response to this know the 'grace of generosity' to others.