

2 CORINTHIANS LESSON 16

Chapter 7:12-16, Discipline Proves Love / Brag on Your Brethren / 8:1-19, Giving

14 August 2023

7:12 The current culture believes that withholding discipline proves your love. The bible says the fact that you care enough to correct a sinning individual and try to deliver them from their sin proves your love for them.

13-16 If you are able to honestly boast about a brother, a sister, or a group of believers who are living for Jesus, it can provide refreshment to another believer.

- The Devil is the accuser of the brethren (Rev. 12:10).
- We ought to join with the Lord Jesus Christ as an advocate of our brethren (1 Jn. 2:1).

Chapter 8

Vs 1 Giving money is called “**the grace of God.**” It is God’s grace in your heart that encourages you to want to give freely to others who have a need.

Vs 2 Though the Macedonian believers suffered great poverty themselves, they still desired to give liberally to other believers in need to further the cause of Jesus Christ.

Vs 3 “...**beyond their power they were willing...**” They somehow gave more than could be expected of them, beyond their ability.

Vs 4 “...**Praying us with much intreaty...**” The church leaders didn’t want to take money from the Macedonians. They had to beg the leaders to “**receive the gift.**”

- Supporting the needs of other believers is called “**the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.**” When we provide money to a missionary, we become a part of their Christian work.

Vs 5 “...**first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.**”

- If you have not given yourself and your heart to the cause of Christ, you will resent any preaching about giving your money to the cause.
- If you **HAVE** given yourself and your heart to the cause of Christ, you will enjoy bible preaching about giving to further the cause of Christ, and you will gladly give.

Vs 6 “...**finish in you the same grace also.**” It takes the grace of God working in your heart to give.

Vs 7 Christians ought to abound in faith, utterance, knowledge, diligence, love, and “**in THIS grace also**” (freely giving).

- As salvation by grace is a free gift, so, your giving ought to be freely given with no expectations of receiving anything in return.

Vs 8 Giving is “**not by commandment.**” It is an opportunity to prove your love. If you love someone, you do not need to be commanded to spend money to meet their needs.

- The commandment to husbands is “Love your wives” (Eph. 5:25, col 3:19). A man who loves his wife does not need to be commanded to provide for her individual needs.
- If pastors will teach people to love instead of teaching them to tithe (Old Testament), people would give according to their love.

- Many pastors are afraid to give people the liberty to give from their heart. They worry that they won't receive enough money to support their family. They might have to find work.

Vs 9 Jesus Christ is the best example of giving. He gave His life for you because He loved you (grace).

- That same grace ought to operate in your life. Let your love make you a willing giver.

10-12 Giving ought to be performed by those who are willing, moved by love.

- Give what you can give now. Don't wait till you have enough to give more, or you'll never give.

13-15 Give what you are able to give. When you find yourself in want (lacking what you need), you will find that others will supply what you need.

- Giving is not intended to be a burden. It is an opportunity to spread the love in fellowship.

16-19 The Corinthian church showed that they were ready in their mind, willing in their heart, and filled with love for Jesus when they provided "**this grace**" (vs 19) (money) for the glory of the Lord.
