



Sermon: God's Generosity, Our Response

This sermon outline is meant to offer an approach to the stewardship theme. It is designed to be fleshed out further by the pastor through additions of personal thoughts and illustrations, as well as adapting to your unique context.

Theme: Generosity is God's grand design! If there is one word that would best describe the very heart of God, it would be GENEROSITY. Our hearts were created in God's image. We were made for this!

Scripture: I Timothy 6:17-19

“As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches but rather on God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.”

Point 1: God's Provision is Gratuitous

It is evident in what God has made. God's creation is generous!

It is gratuitous, far more than we need and/or deserve.

For example, there are:

30,000 species of fish

7,500 varieties of apples

400,000 flowering plants,

Just to name just a few extraordinary aspects of God's generous provision. *(you might share your favorite fish, type of apple, and/or flower)*

God has even called us to be co-creators in multiplying the diversity of what has been made. For example, we have multiplied the varieties of fruits and flowers. *(two of my favorites: honey crisp apples, developed at the University of Minnesota, and clementine oranges “Cuties” developed in China over 1000 years ago).*

Scripture says that this was for our enjoyment (I Timothy 6:17). God's generosity extends to our enjoyment!

Point 2: God's Love Knows No Bounds

For God so loved the world that he **GAVE**.

In giving his only son for our salvation we see right into the heart of a generous God.

God **gave** as **love** required! When practicing our own generosity the measure should be no less than, "What does love require?"

Replace your own name in this powerful proclamation: _____ so loved the world that he/she gave _____.

Point 3: Our Generosity Glorifies God

God calls and equips each of us to be a part of God's Grand Design.

Jesus gives us life's simple equation in Matthew 10:39

"Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it."

When we pour out our lives as Jesus poured out his life we gain life.

Imagine if we all gave to the level of what Jesus gave. The world would experience the very heart of God.

Glorify - represent God as a present force.

God invites us to be a part of his grand design.

When we accept the invitation we will take hold of life that is life indeed.

Illustration: In 1991, Gatorade released its iconic advertisement featuring one of the greatest basketball players to ever play the game, Michael Jordan. The tagline "I want to be like Mike" became a part of our vocabulary.

The lyrics express a longing or a dream to play with the skill of Michael Jordon and the subtext is that while you may not play like him you can drink the sports drink that he drinks, Gatorade.

I can dream, but I will never possess the qualities that lead to basketball greatness. Imagine though, that we can possess the qualities of the heart of God! Generosity is a capacity that anyone, of any size, of any age, of any means can be like God!