



Culture Series: Generosity

Developing a Generous Spirit

If we are to truly develop a generous spirit then first of all we must realise that we are rich.

We are inconceivably rich.

Forget not all his benefits.

Psalm 103:1-3

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!
Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,
who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

What are the benefits we should not forget?

1. That we are chosen

Ephesians 1:5

he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.

Romans 8:28-30

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

2. Having chosen you he found a way to know you.

2 Corinthians 5:21

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Romans 4:25

who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

Galatians 3:13

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"

3. He is now changing us.

2 Corinthians 3:18

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Colossians 3:10

and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

4. Provides for our every need

Matthew 6:33

Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

5. Future

Romans 8:17

and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

1 Corinthians 15:54-55

When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"

Benefits of being in the KA

1. Adopted in to a family

1 John 12

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

2 Corinthians 6:18

"I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

2. A church where God is on the move. Fantastic time to be alive. Many people have to struggle on faithfully serving.

3. Openess/honesty. You can be honest about who you really.

Response to generosity

Showing hospitality

1 Peter 4:9

Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:

Hebrews 13: 3

Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Romans 12:14

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

What would stop me?

What if they've been coming here for ages?

Can't remember the person's name?

Fear?

Too busy with friends, family... selfishness?

“The physical force of gravity pulls everything to the center of the earth. In order to break free from earth-centered life, thousands and thousands of pounds of energy have to push the space shuttle away from the center. There is also a psychological force of gravity that constantly pulls our thoughts and affections and physical actions inward toward the center of our own selves and our own homes.

Therefore the most natural thing in the world is to neglect hospitality. It is the path of least resistance. All we have to do is yield to the natural gravity of our self-centered life, and the result will be a life so full of self that there is no room for hospitality. We will forget about it. And we will neglect it. So the Bible bluntly says. Stop that! Build a launching pad. Fill up your boosters. And blast out of your self-oriented routine. Stop neglecting hospitality. Practice hospitality.” **John Piper**

Practical tips

1. Opening questions
 - “Hi, my name is ... I’m not sure have we spoken before?”
 - Are you from Bedford?
 - How did you hear about The Kings Arms?
 - How did you find the meeting?
 - Did you get a copy of the welcome pack?
 - Have you seen the information boards in the foyer? Show them details about the church.
 - If you are new to the church. Say “I’m new to The Kings Arms have you been part of the church for a long time?”
 - I’m going to fight the children for a doughnut in the foyer do you want to join me?
2. Get here early - New people arrive early
3. Kings Kids welcome packs. Available for the children
4. Go in pairs to chat to people.
5. Once a month do a meal that you could invite someone over to. If you have children just be wise about how you handle that.
6. Get clear about who you can invite to small group.
7. Spare room? FP student, visitors to KA.

People come here and muster all the courage they can to walk in through the doors, and they’re asking the question “ is there a place here for me?”

Resources for further study

http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/TopicIndex/17_Fellowship_and_Hospitality/992_Consider_Each_Other_How_to_Stir_Up_Love/

John 4:7-26 Jesus’ hospitality

Grudem: Systematic theology Chp 37. What are the benefits of being a member of god’s family.