

Body by God

Discovering Principles from 1 & 2 Corinthians about Building Up Christ's Body

Show Me the Money

Introduction to 2 Corinthians 8-9

In the movie, "Jerry Maguire", Tom Cruise plays a football player's agent, whose client becomes tired of promises. He wants Jerry to quit telling him about the deal he is going to get, and to "show him the money" instead. This illustrates a basic truth, that the sincerity of our words is demonstrated by the extent of the personal investment we make to fulfill those words. In 2 Corinthians 8-9 Paul calls the church to do this very thing. The Corinthians had promised to give to the relief fund for the poor at Jerusalem; now it was time for them to "show him the money", to fulfill their words. As God speaks through Paul in this section it provides a model of giving for all of His people. First, Paul talks about the inspiration for giving. This inspira-

tion comes from three places. First, the example of other believers, such as the Macedonians, who gave out of their poverty, leads us to want to give. In addition, when we consider how much God has given us, and see how much Christ sacrificed for us, we should be inspired to give in the same way. Paul then spoke to the church about the importance of integrity in giving. They had promised to give, and now was the time to do it. In fact, the amount of the gift wasn't nearly as important as fulfilling the promise to give to God and others. Paul also pointed out that the ones collecting the money were people of integrity, showing that we must be sure that those to whom we are giving are properly using the gift.



Following God's principles will develop a church body that

However, once we know we can trust them, we must take hands off our gift. Finally, Paul gave some basic instructions for giving. We must give generously, freely and cheerfully, trusting God's promise to provide for us, so that we, in turn, can continue to give. This will inspire others and grow our integrity; all God says is "show me the money".

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- Worship—You were planned for God's pleasure
- Fellowship—You were formed for God's family
- Discipleship—You were created to become like Christ
- Ministry—You were shaped for serving God
- Evangelism—You were made for a mission

Study/Discussion Questions for 2 Corinthians 8-9

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader resources)

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| 1. Read 8:1-5. What had God given to the Macedonian churches (v1), and how did it happen (v2)? How did they give (v2, 3, 5), and with what attitude (v4)? Why was this inspiring? | |
| 2. Using 8:6-9 what did the Corinthian church need to do (v6-7)? Why did this make sense (v7, 9)? How would you apply this? | |
| 3. From 8:10-12 what was Paul's advice to them (10-11), and how would this show integrity? What principle of giving does Paul state in v12? What does this mean to you? | |

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2 Corinthians 8-9 Study Questions (cont)

4. According to 8:13-15 how should we view our financial resources in relation to others in the church body (v14)? Why does this make sense (v15—refer back to Exodus 16:13-21)?

5. Looking at 8:16-24 what type of people had Paul enlisted to collect the money (v17, 18, 22-23), and why were they selected (v19-20)? Why is this important to know for those who give?

6. Based on 9:1-2 how had the example of Achaia (Corinth) affected the Macedonians (v2)? How did Paul describe the financial offering of the Corinthians (v1)? What does this teach about the real meaning of financial giving?

7. Using 9:3-5 what did Paul want to make sure of (v4), and how did he try to accomplish this (v3)? What were his reasons (v3, 4, 5), and what does this teach us about the wrong attitude in giving (v5)?

8. Read 9:6-7. List Paul's instructions for the right way to give (v6, 7). Why do you think God loves a cheerful giver?

9. In light of 9:8-11 why does generous giving make sense (v8-9), and does God promise when we give (v8, 10-11)?

10. According to 9:12-15 what does our giving accomplish (v12, 13, 14)? How does v15 summarize the underlying rationale for generous giving?

11. From 2 Corinthians 8-9, how would you say Christians are supposed to give, and what effects will this type of giving have? How do you think you are doing in this area?

Scripture to Remember

“Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret.”

2 Corinthians 7:10a (NIV)

Celebration Fellowship

*Reaching—
Restoring—Raising Up*

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Life Group Questions

(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. As an icebreaker, let each one share how they pack their bags when they go on a trip—when do they start, do they roll, fold or hang, make a list, etc.
2. Talk about why we develop our various hang-ups, or baggage. What are some of the results of this in our lives?
3. Discuss why it is so difficult to “empty” our bags and keep them empty.
4. For whomever is willing let them share some of the baggage they have been able to empty, and how they have done it.
5. Talk about specific steps we can begin to take to receive God's freedom in these areas.
6. Discuss anything else that impressed you from the worship service if you have time.