

Gregarious Giving

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 8:13–9:5

Introduction: This passage falls into three sections, each one giving us a different guiding principle for the way the apostle Paul directed his own stewardship campaign

- 1. The Principle of Equity** (vv. 13–15). Paul felt there was something wrong among his churches when some Christians were overly wealthy while others were starving. He believed those with greater resources had an obligation to help those suffering from want. In other words, God provides some people with more money that they might be of greater help. There should be equality of sacrifice.
- 2. The Principle of Honesty** (vv. 16–24). Here Paul reassured the Corinthians about his handling of the monies raised. He wanted to avoid any criticism about the way the funds were handled.
- 3. The Principle of Charity** (9:1–5). We're prone to ask ourselves, "How little can I get by with? What is the least amount I can reasonably promise to give?" But the Lord does not want gifts "grudgingly given."

Conclusion: God wants eager, enthusiastic, generous gifts—and givers.