

Series - Be Wise (21 of 22)
Topic - Heartbeat of Grace (1 Corinthians 16)

Date - 17-11-2019
Speaker - Pastor Ernie Song

WELCOME [15 min]

You may want to look up the following websites for *icebreakers* suitable for your cell.

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)

WORSHIP [15 min]

You may select songs like

1. Lord, I Offer My Life
2. Worth It All

WORD [45 min]

Spiritual Objectives

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Understand that there must be a cross in our giving; and
2. Learn to practice intentionality in our giving.

Sermon Summary

The following are the key points of the sermon:

1. Part of maturing into the likeness of Christ is maturing in our giving and generosity.
2. Our giving and generosity must take reference from the cross, and not from others.
3. We must be intentional in our giving and our generosity so that many more will be blessed.

Sermon Recap (Full Summary)

Pastor Ernie centred his sermon on the passage in 1 Corinthians 16, which exhorts the importance of Christian giving.

From verses 5 to 11, Pastor Ernie shared how Paul's heart for the Corinthian church was that of discipleship - that the members will grow from spiritual infants to spiritual adults, and in such way attain Christlikeness. Pastor Ernie also taught that our lifestyle patterns must be changed as we grow from spiritual infants to adults - from self-centredness, to becoming more other-centred.

From verses 1 to 4, we learn that the church in Jerusalem was facing a great famine, and the Apostle Paul had appealed to the Corinthian Church to contribute to this need

generously. Pastor Ernie shared that the Biblical principle here is that generosity is for the sake of others - if there is a need in the body of Christ, we must be generous to take ownership and meet such needs.

We then go to the book of Acts, chapter 2. We see how the outcomes of Pentecost are a greater desire for the things of God (vs 42), and radical generosity (vs 44-47). As Christians, generosity is always the consequence when a sinner experiences the undeserved mercies and grace of God. When we receive grace, we realize that everything we have belongs to God, who gave generously to us - so we are able to hold everything loosely for the purposes of God.

Pastor Ernie then shared that the opposite of generosity, is greed. Referring to passages in Matthew 6:19-24 and Luke 12:15, we see how greed can be a very deceiving, and insidious sin. Pastor Ernie also shared some signs which may diagnose greed in our hearts:

- 1) We don't think we are greedy, most likely because we unconsciously compare our spending habits to those around us in the same income bracket, to those in a higher income bracket, or against those in our social circle who are spending lavishly.
- 2) As Christians, we don't feel the need for accountability on how we spend our money, instead viewing it as a private matter.
- 3) We are incidentally, but not intentionally generous.

Pastor Ernie then went on to consider the question of how much of our income we should be tithing. Instead of giving from a manipulative and self-centred mindset to hope that God bless us back, we should give sacrificially. He also shared the following application points on giving:

- Our reference point for giving should not be others, but should be the cross.
- While we can give to causes outside the church, we should prioritize giving to areas of our church that are in need.
- We should be generous to non-believers, to display God's generosity. The church must be the first responders to society's areas of needs.

Pastor Ernie concluded his sermon with a call for us to give sacrificially, to the extent that it is worthy of a God who gave everything for us.

Discussion Questions

- 1. What is the most generous thing someone has ever done for you? What was so memorable about it?** [15 min]

- 2. Read through Acts chapter 2 and Luke 19:1-10. What parallels can you draw from both the accounts of the early church in Acts, and Zacchaeus' conversion? How did their conversions lead to radical generosity?** [15 min]

3. **Is the area of tithes and offerings a struggle for you? What are some reasons holding you back? How can you be more intentional in increasing your generosity?** [15 min]

WORKS [10 min]

Let's pray:

1. That we will be generous people unto the Lord, unto the church and unto the poor and needy in society and beyond.
2. For The Cell Outreach
 - For the non-Christian friends that will be coming for the Cell Outreach to be open to the invitation
 - For the programs that will be run that day.
 - For everyone that is involved in the running of the cell outreach.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Consider giving to help our Missions Department meet its 2019 Faith Goal.

There is still a shortage of \$356, 436. A lack will have impact on how much the church can do in the nations. Consider helping to meet this need.

2. Songs of Love (A Mandarin Christmas Celebration)

Sat, 7 Dec | 11am | Worship Centre

Light breakfast will be served at 10am (Admission by ticket only)

Special Guest: Esther Choe

Church Vision

"A radiant disciple-making church catalysing Kingdom transformation in our communities and the nations."

Mission

We exist to make disciples who behold Christ and reveal Him.