

# Charity & Sharing A Christian's Lifestyle (3)

(Romans 12:13)

Survey of Romans part 46

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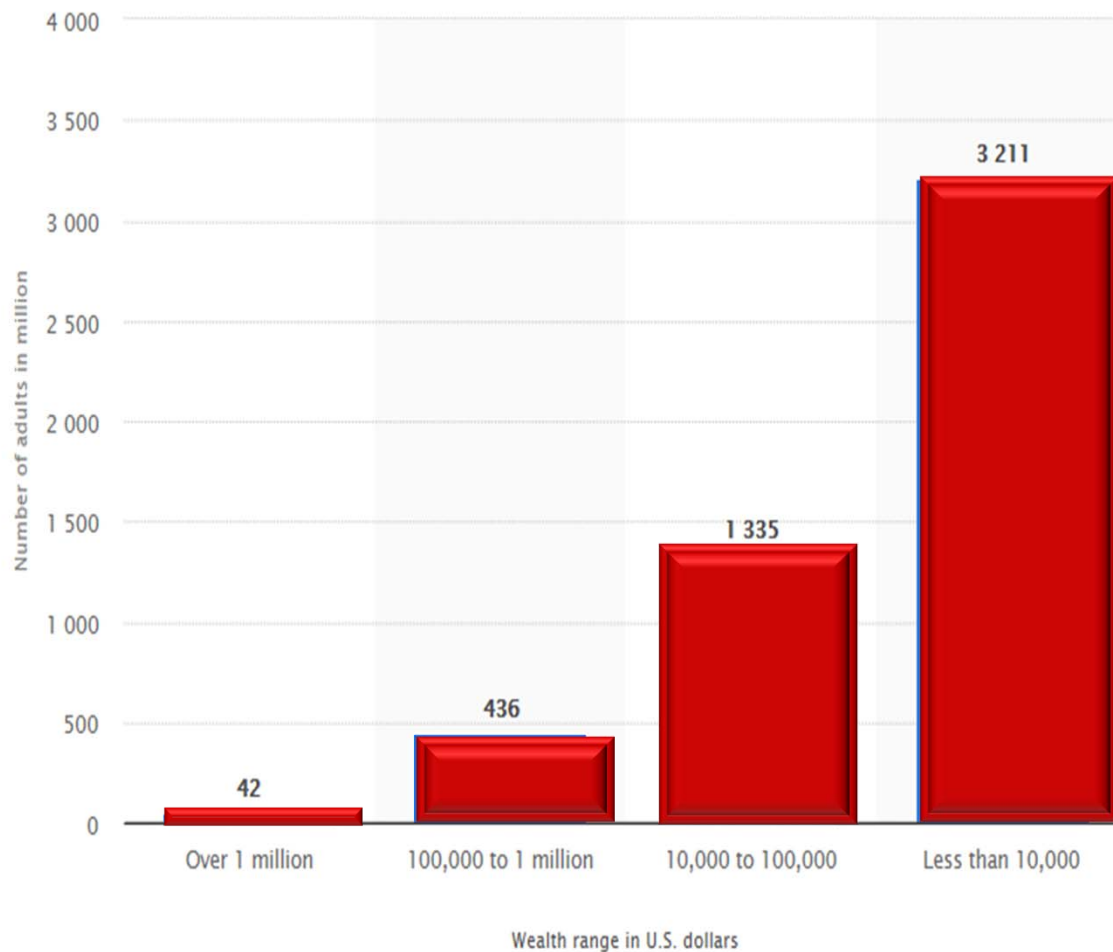
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## Introduction: Charity and Sharing

- Romans 12:13 (ESV): “Contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.”
- Does that text need a detailed exegesis? Is it not self-explanatory?
- **THE CHALLENGE:** Money and possessions test our hearts as few things do.
- Even those of us who think or claim that we do not have a love for money, discover how idolatrous we can be in our handling of money.

# Introduction: Charity and Sharing

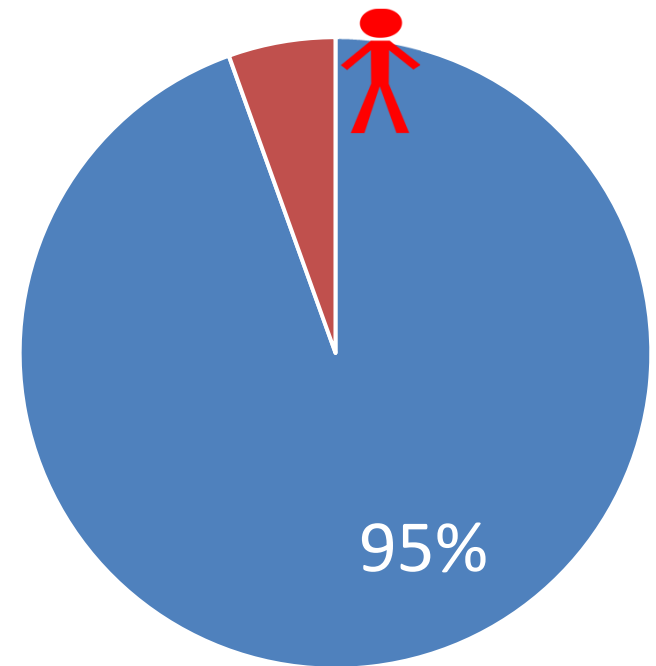
Global wealth distribution in 2018, by net worth of individuals (in millions)



- 42 Million adults have more than 1 million dollars
- 436 million adults, possess between 100 thousand to a million
- 1,335 million adults, possess between 10,000 to 100,000
- 3.2 billion adults possess less than 10,000 dollars in assets.

## Introduction: Charity and Sharing

- Next time you tell someone you are poor, you should seriously think about that statement.
- Probably every one here is part of the 436 million adults out of 7.4 billion people privileged to have assets that put them in the category of being wealthy.
- Our problem is not what we have, but who do we compare ourselves with.



## Introduction: Charity and Sharing

Tithing Statistics. Source: <https://healthresearchfunding.org/21-tithing-statistics/>

1. Only 3-5% of Americans who give to their local church do so through regular tithing.
2. For Christian families making less than **\$20k per year, 8%** of them gave at least 10% in tithing.
3. For families making a minimum of **\$75k or more**, the figure drops to just **1%**.

## Introduction: Charity and Sharing

Tithing Statistics. Source: <https://healthresearchfunding.org/21-tithing-statistics/>

4. 3 out of 4 people who don't go to church make donations to nonprofit organizations.
5. The average donation by adults who attend U.S. Protestant churches is about **\$17 a week**.
6. 1 in 3 US American Christians say that it is impossible for them to get ahead in life because of the debt that they have incurred.
7. People who tithe regularly typically have less debt than other demographics.

## Introduction: Charity and Sharing

2 Corinthians 9:6 Now this *I say*, he who sows **sparingly** shall also reap **sparingly**; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully.

<sup>7</sup> Let each one *do* just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver.

<sup>8</sup> And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

<sup>9</sup> as it is written, "HE SCATTERED ABROAD, HE GAVE TO THE POOR, HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ABIDES FOREVER."

<sup>10</sup> Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food, will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness;

## Introduction: Charity and Sharing

- Are we generous?
- Why are we not generous?
- Actually, the question should be why *am I* not generous?



## Introduction: Charity and Sharing

### Why am I not generous?

- Because I do not believe giving has any return on investment.
- Because I live beyond my means, and don't have much left to give and even if I don't, I spend way too much in trivialities.
- Because evil has multiplied on earth, and my heart has hardened against the cries of the poor. *My experience this week in Downtown Indianapolis.*

## Introduction: Charity and Sharing

### **Why am I not generous?**

- Because I believe the lie that I need to store a lot of money for my retirement.
- Financial Institutions sold me into saving at least 15% of my gross income for retirement, because they say, unless we have a million dollars in liquid assets, we will not have enough money to die comfortably at 89 when according to them, we will die.
- We are the fool and blind puppets of a system that sells the illusion of a long life and a peaceful death.

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### Why am I not generous?

- I keep forgetting the parable of the rich fool?

Luke 12:18 "And he said, 'This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.

<sup>19</sup> 'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.'"

<sup>20</sup> "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?'

<sup>21</sup> "So is the man who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

## Introduction: Charity and Sharing

### RECONNECT with the text – Romans 12:1-12 :

In light of the Gospel of God's infinite mercy, securing for us true and everlasting riches as fellow-heirs with Christ:

- a) **Present your bodies** (all of who you are) a living sacrifice to God
- b) **Without being conceited**, take stock of what God has given you to serve others with our gifts, talents and resources.
- c) Let your **love** be genuine
- d) **Rejoicing** in hope
- e) **Enduring** in tribulations: pressing on and staying the course and.

## CONTRIBUTING TO THE NEEDS OF THE SAINTS

- An eternal perspective infused by Gospel hope should permeate our lifestyle.
- There are three kinds of people: those who take (who steal or spend), those who save and those who give.
- Sharing, partaking or giving for the needs of the saints, is part and parcel of a *gospel induced Christian lifestyle*.
- The participle is plural, we must remember that these are individual, but corporate instructions.

## CONTRIBUTING TO THE NEEDS OF THE SAINTS

### How much should we give? (From 2 Corinthians 8 & 9)

- a) Share as you are able
- b) Give proportionately to what you have
- c) Give joyfully (not out of guilt, or begrudgingly) Psalm 24:1
- d) Be Generous
- e) Give as one who has been given the greatest gift 2 Corinthians 8:9
- f) Do not limit your giving to church offerings.
  - ⇒ *Honor your aging parents by providing for them Mark 7:11-12*
  - ⇒ *Remember the poor Galatians 2:10*
  - ⇒ *Charities, etc.*

## PRACTICING HOSPITALITY

**lit:** th.n filoxeni,an diw,kontej *Lit: “pursuing or chasing hospitality”*

- Root: Filial love to strangers
- **Leon Morris** writes: “Christian hospitality must inconvenience us more than that of the world; we do not choose our time or our guests. Paul is not advocating a pleasant social exercise among friends, but the use of one’s home to help even people we do not know, if that will advance God’s cause.”

## PRACTICING HOSPITALITY

### b) Explain context:

- Itinerant evangelists
- Persecuted saints
- Christians in general
- Hospitality was a requisite of elders and deacons 1 Timothy 3:2, Titus 1:8
- It was a requisite for widows to be added to the benevolence list of the church 1 Timothy 5:10
- It was required for all Christians Hebrews 13:10



## PRACTICING HOSPITALITY

### c) The Gospel is the basis for hospitality.

- God not only loved those who were estranged from Him, but He loved His enemies
- The sinner is welcome into God's household as a dear child, by faith
- God not only makes us heirs, but fellow heirs is with Christ.

## PRACTICING HOSPITALITY

d) Some practical remarks.

- 1. Do not let politics cloud your judgment.** One thing is what a country does and should do to protect its citizens, and another thing is how as Christians we deal with strangers.
- 2. God let strangers participate in the Passover Ex 12:48**  
"But if a stranger sojourns with you, and celebrates the Passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near to celebrate it; and he shall be like a native of the land..."<sup>49</sup> "The same law shall apply to the native as to the stranger who sojourns among you."

## PRACTICING HOSPITALITY

d) Some practical remarks.

**3. God commanded kindness to strangers, even if they were not circumcised Exodus 12:21 "And you shall not wrong a stranger or oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt."**

**4. Love Strangers, especially if they are poor.**  
James 2:1-7

## PRACTICING HOSPITALITY



A Christian lifestyle does not consist in do's and don'ts, but in living in light of the mercies of which we have been made participants in the Gospel.

**END**