

2 Corinthians 8:6-15 Study Questions

The Context of 2 Corinthians 8:1-15 – During his visits and correspondence with various churches, Paul was encouraging giving for the poor Christians in Jerusalem, who were facing persecution, famine, and heavy taxation. In 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, Paul uses the Macedonian Christians as an example of generosity for the Corinthians. Paul wants to encourage generosity among the Corinthians, who had stalled out in their giving.

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-7

- In what ways are the Corinthians already excelling in their relationship with God (verse 7)?
- What is the “act of grace” (ESV) that Paul wants the Corinthians to excel in also?

Read verse 8

- According to this verse, why does Paul desire for the Corinthians to excel in generosity? What does a growing generosity indicate in a person?
- Why does Paul not command the Corinthians to give?

Read 2 Corinthians 8:9 and Philippians 2:3-8.

- In these two passages, Paul uses Jesus as an example. What does he want the Corinthians and the Philippians to learn from Christ’s example? What might we learn from Christ’s example?
- Have you ever met someone who models Christ-like generosity? How does that person’s generosity reflect the character of Jesus?

Read 2 Corinthians 8:11-12

- According to these verses, what makes our generosity acceptable to God?
- Read Mark 12:41-44. Why does Jesus call attention to the poor widow’s offering? What makes her offering acceptable to God?
- What do you have to give (money, time, talent, knowledge, material resources)? How can you begin leveraging what you have for the good of others?

Read 2 Corinthians 8:13-15

- How does generosity toward others promote fairness or equality (verse 14)?
- In verse 15, Paul quotes Exodus 16:18. In Exodus 16, God provides food for the Israelites in the wilderness. Read Exodus 16:13-18. Why does Paul refer to this passage? What implications does it have for the Corinthians, and for us today?
- Has God ever used other believers to provide for your needs?

Look back over 2 Corinthians 8:6-15. What is the main point, or BIG IDEA, of the passage?