

WHY GIVE?

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Posted Jul 2nd, 09:50 by [LIVING WATERS](#) from [Lightbearers](#)

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...John 3:16 NKJV

This month we are raising money for a newer vehicle for our LMN director in east Africa, Charles Nyaga. Since the phrases 'give to get' and 'giving equals receiving' are not in the Bible (and reveal selfish motivation), we have to ask ourselves, "Why do we give?"

As I considered this problem, I realized there were at least three answers...

Number One: Giving is the expression of the nature of Christ in you.

God is love, and He has filled our spirits with His nature of love in the new birth. Love is always expressed in some form of giving. Giving can be defined as an unselfish expression of concern for others that is manifested in some concrete form. God was concerned about His lost, fallen world. The concrete expression of His concern was His Son, Jesus, Who so loved us that He sacrificed (gave) Himself for us.

Now, we have that love, that unselfish concern for others, in us. So, we make sacrifices in concrete form (we give) to help others, thereby expressing the nature of Love that dwells in us. We want to imitate our Father God...so we give! Do you understand?

With the merciful You will show Yourself merciful...Ps 18:25 NKJV

Number Two: If I show mercy, I will receive mercy.

As a husband, father, minister, citizen, businessman, etc., I seek to be my very best in all situations. But in so many situations, I fall short. I make mistakes. I sin. In so many things, I need mercy to be shown to me. So, if I want mercy to be shown to me, I must demonstrate mercy to others in a concrete way...by giving to help them in their needs (if you are like me, you need all the 'mercy credits' you can get...bless God forever!).

This is such a sobering verse to me concerning ministering mercy, that I have it written on my wall:

Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor will also cry himself and not be heard...Prov 21:13 NKJV

Finally...

Give, and it will be given to you: Luke 6:38 NKJV

Number Three: As I give to others, others will give to me.

Bless God forever, this is not 'give to get'! As I show an unselfish concern for others in a concrete form (as I give), God will work in others to show the same unselfish concern in concrete form to me.

Bless God forever...this is the simplicity of life, and this is why we give...

Love you guys!