

## FREELY GIVE

Beginning with verse 8, Paul began his appeal for a big favor from Philemon on behalf of Onesimus.

We have divided verses 8-14 (one Greek sentence) into three homiletical parts of Paul's appeal.

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|---------------------|----------------|-------------|------------|
| • Appeal (vs.8-9)   | Love's sake    | Believers   | Fellowship |
| • Appeal (vs.10-11) | Lord's sake    | Born again  | Family     |
| • Appeal (vs.12-14) | Liberty's sake | Benefactors | Freedom    |

**“It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.”** (Gal.5:1)

Today's lesson comes from Paul's third appeal. We will examine it by the following three homiletical points.

- Compassion (vs.12) Give from the heart (ta splagchnon) [bowel; affections; compassion]
- Cause (vs.13) Give to help other's minister
- Consent (vs.14) Give by free will (exousia) [liberty, right, and authority to do as Lord wills]

**Today we will study four aspects of Paul's appeal to Philemon  
to freely give Onesimus his freedom as Christ did him**

**(Gal.5:13) “For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”**

1. **Freely giving is based on the doctrinal principle of God's grace expressed to all church age believers through the gospel of grace salvation (1 Cor.15:1-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9).**

(2 Cor.8:9) “For you know the grace of our lord Jesus Christ, that though He was **rich**, yet for your sake He became **poor**, that you through His poverty might become **rich**.”

(2 Cor.9:15) “Thanks be to God for His **indescribable gift!**”

(Rom.5:15) “But **the free gift** is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and **the gift by the grace** of the One Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many.”

The context of 2 Cor.8:1-15 is the generous and the giving freely by the Macedonian believers

(2 Cor.8:3) “For I testify that **according to their liberality, and beyond their ability (means) they gave of their own accord.**”

2. **Freely giving is 1 of 6 great virtues of the spiritual mature church age believer.**

(2 Cor.8:7) “But just as you abound (perisseuo / p.a.ind) in everything, in **faith** (pistis) and **utterance** (logos) [communication of God's word] and **knowledge** (gnosis) [seeking absolute truth] and in **all earnestness** (pas spoude) [diligence in application of bible doctrine] and in the **love** (agape) we inspired in you, see that you abound in this **gracious work** (te charis) [freely giving] also.”

During Paul's teaching at the pastor's conference at Ephesus, he reminded them that this virtue applied to them as well as their churches (Acts 20:33-35 / read). He closed with this quotation from Jesus, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

3. **Freely giving focuses on a grace-oriented mind-set more than a monetary amount. Giving should occur in the mind before the pocketbook.**

**This mind-set begins with giving oneself to the lord before giving one's money**

“And this, not as we had expected, but they **first gave themselves to the Lord** and to us by the will of God.” (2 Cor.8:5)

**Since church age giving is a grace and not a law issue, the amount is a personal priesthood issue.**

“For I testify that **according** (kata+acc. of norm and standard) to their ability (dunamis), and **beyond** (para+acc. of limitation) their ability they **gave of their own accord** (authairetos) [without outside pressure / freely gave].” (2 Cor.8:3)

**The disciples of Jesus responded this way to the ministry need at Jerusalem.**

“And in the proportion that any of the disciples had means (euporeo / impf.m.ind) [to have excess money], each of them determined to send a contribution for the relief of the brethren living in Judea.” (Acts 11:29)

Notice that each disciple decided whether to give as well as the amount. Each of them freely gave based on grace and not on law.

4. **We will conclude with five additional guidelines to freely giving in Christian Way of Life (CWL).**

**Believers are encouraged to freely give as God has prospered him.**

(2 Cor.8-9) “According to their ability and beyond their ability they gave of their own accord.” (2 Cor.8:3)

“For if (1cc / true) the readiness is present, it is acceptable according to what a man has, not according to what he does not have.” (2 Cor.8:12)

**Believers are encouraged to freely give with a cheerful heart not grudgingly or by compulsion**

“Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; **not** grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful heart.” (2 Cor.9:7)

“But they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.” (2 Cor.8:5)

**Believers are encouraged to freely give as he has purposed in his heart.**

“Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart.” (2 Cor.9:7)

“They gave of their own accord.” (2 Cor.8:3b)

**Believers are encouraged to freely give to the local church ministries.**

“On the first day of the week let each one of you put aside and save, as he may prosper, that no collections be made when I come.” (1 Cor.16:2) (Heb.10:25; 2 Tim.2:26; 1 Cor.9:11)

**Believers are encouraged to freely give to those needs that are compatible with church age doctrines.**

**Let me mention four needs that are compatible with church age doctrines.**

- Brothers in Christ in need (1 John 3:17; 2 Cor.8:13-15; Heb.13:16; James 2:14-17).
- Personal family (1 Tim.5:8) (parents to grandparents) in need
- Widows and orphans in need (James 1:27).
- Missions and ministries in need (Rom.15:25-28; Phil.4:14-20).

**“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.” (2 Cor.9:8)**

**“First gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.” (8:5)**