

Un-Common Community

Uncommon:

- Unusual, rare / Exceptional; remarkable

Community

- A social, religious, occupational or other group sharing common characteristics or interests and perceived or perceiving itself as distinct in some respect from the larger society within which it exists.

Distinct People

- **1 Peter 2:9-12** —⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

¹¹Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. ¹²Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

Giving Community

God is the Giver

- **Ultimate Gift**
 - **John 3:16** — ¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
 - **Ephesians 2:8-10** — ⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
- **Every Good & Perfect Gift**
 - **James 1:17** — ¹⁷Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.
- **Ability to Get**
 - **Deuteronomy 8:17-18** — ¹⁷You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." ¹⁸But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.

God's Givers

□ All Offered Back

- Romans 11:33-12:1 – ³³Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and^[a] knowledge of God!

How unsearchable his judgments,
and his paths beyond tracing out!

³⁴“Who has known the mind of the Lord?

Or who has been his counselor?”^[a]

³⁵“Who has ever given to God,
that God should repay them?”^[a]

³⁶For from him and through him and for him are all things.

To him be the glory forever! Amen.

12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Giving Money.....is an Issue

□ A Heart Issue

- Matthew 6:19-21 – ¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

- 1 Timothy 6:10 – ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

□ An Eye Issue

- Matthew 6:22-23 – ²²“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy,^[a] your whole body will be full of light. ²³But if your eyes are unhealthy,^[a] your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

□ A Master Issue

- Matthew 6:24 – ²⁴“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

□ **A Trust Issue**

- **Matthew 6:25-33** – ²⁵“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life^[e]?”

²⁸“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³²For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

□ **An Honor Issue**

- **Proverbs 3:9-10** – ⁹Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; ¹⁰then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

Giving Change

(We need to change our view on giving. Our giving is not a box to be checked so that we feel good with God. It is not a part of our justification but is used by God as a way to sanctify us, glorify Him and provide for His work on this earth.)

- God uses our giving to work out issues of greed, idolatry, selfishness, trust and worry in our lives.
- God uses our giving to show people where our heart is at.
- God uses our giving to push forward His mission on the earth.

What do I Give?

Principle Giving

Principle of Tithing

Pre-Law

- Genesis 14:17-20 – ¹⁷After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him, the king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King’s Valley).

¹⁸Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, ¹⁹ and he blessed Abram, saying,

“Blessed be Abram by God Most High,
Creator of heaven and earth.

²⁰And praise be to God Most High,
who delivered your enemies into your hand.”

Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

- Genesis 28:16-22 – ¹⁶When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, “Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it.” ¹⁷He was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven.”

¹⁸Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. ¹⁹He called that place Bethel,^[e] though the city used to be called Luz.

²⁰Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear²¹ so that I return safely to my father’s household, then the LORD^[f] will be my God ²²and^[g] this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God’s house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth.”

Law (Deuteronomy 26:1-15)

- Remembering God’s Goodness
- Provision for God’s Ministry

- **Prayerful Giving**
 - Offerings / Blessings / Gifts
 - People
 - Projects for People
 - Programs for People

4 Things to Remember About Giving

- **2 Corinthians 9:6-11-** ⁶Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹As it is written:

“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.”^[a]

¹⁰Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

1. Give Generously
2. Give What You've Decided
3. Give Cheerfully
4. God gives givers gifts to give