

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)