

GOD OF GENEROSITY

*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.” — John 3:16 (NIV)*

Seeing how God made the FIRST move on generosity . . .

I. God is extravagantly _____ with His creation.

A. He has _____ His creation with love.

1 John 3:1a (NIV) — How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!
Psalms 145:16 (Msg) — Generous to a fault, you lavish your favor on all creatures.
Psalms 145:13 (NIV) — The Lord is faithful to all His promises and loving toward all He has made.

B. He has _____ beauty, complexity and grandeur when He created the world.

Psalms 33:6-7 (Msg) — The skies were made by God’s command; He breathed the word and the stars popped out. He scooped sea into His jug, put ocean in His keg.
Psalms 33:5 (Msg) — Earth is drenched in God’s affectionate satisfaction.

II. Jesus is the ultimate _____ of generosity.

A. Jesus chose _____ to make us “rich.”

2 Corinthians 8:8-9 (NIV) — I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.

B. Jesus sacrificed _____ for us.

Philippians 2:5-8 (NIV) — Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross!

C. Jesus demonstrated the _____ of generosity.

John 13:2-5 (NIV) — Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under His power, and that He had come from God and was returning to God; so He got up from the meal, took off His outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around His waist. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around Him.

III. Our _____ to this generous God.

John 3:16 (NIV) — For 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.

A. A generous giver gives from a heart of _____.

John 3:16a — For God so loved . . .
1 John 4:8 — Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

B. A generous giver gives from their very _____.

John 3:16b — . . . that He gave His one and only son . . .

Like Mary . . .

John 12:3 (NIV) — Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus’ feet and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

C. A generous giver gives to benefit _____.

John 3:16c — . . . that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Like Barnabas . . .

Acts 4:32-35 (NIV) — All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.

IV. Summary: How will you _____?

A. The _____ is God’s generous gift to you!