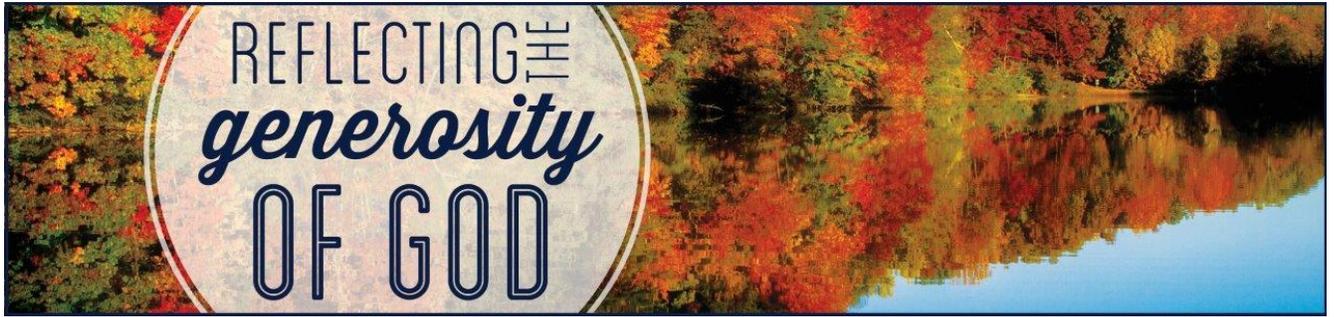


The Generosity of God #1 | September 7, 2014



He Shares with Us What He Made For Himself

For the next three weeks we'll be exploring how we can reflect the extravagant generosity of our God.

God Shares His Image

[Q] From the following verses, what do you know about yourself, having been created by God in His image?
What do you know about God?

Genesis 1:26-27

Colossians 1:16

Revelation 4:11

Colossians 3:10

Ephesians 4:24

[Q] How would you summarize your identity as an image-bearer, who you *are* and who you are *for*?

God Shares His Work

And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Genesis 1:28 (ESV)

[Q] From [Ephesians 6:5-9](#), what principles of work does Paul recommend?

Quote: "Christians should place a high value on all human work (especially excellent work), done by people, as a channel of God's love for his world."

Tim Keller in *Every Good Endeavor: Connecting Your Work to God's Work*

[Q] How might viewing your work (in the workplace, home, school, volunteer) as service to God and neighbor change your choice of work, or the way you conduct yourself at work?

[Q] How do you view your work? Do you see it as joining God in His love for the world? Why or why not?

[Q] How could the way you work reflect God's generosity this week? (Be specific.)

God Gave Us His Son

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. [John 3:16 \(ESV\)](#)

Adam and Eve disfigured the image of God they were given by their disobedience and we have inherited that distortion of sin. But God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, as the "second Adam" to obey perfectly for us and to pay the penalty for our sins. For Christians, the distorted image of God is being renewed as we are conformed to Christ's image.

Read 1 John 4:9-11 and the following quote from Pastor John Piper.

"...when [John] says, "We *ought* to love each other," he means *ought* the way fish ought to swim in water and birds ought to fly in the air and living creatures ought to breathe and peaches ought to be sweet and lemons ought to be sour and hyenas ought to laugh. And born again people ought to love. It's who we are. This is not mere imitation. For the children of God, imitation becomes realization. We are realizing who we are when we love." desiringgod.org/sermons/the-new-birth-produces-love

[Q] Is there anyone in your life you are having a hard time loving? How would remembering who you are make a difference?

- sharing in God's image, for His glory
- blessed with sharing God's restoration work
- generously loved through His Son

Pray

Recommended reading: *Every Good Endeavor: Connecting Your Work to God's Work* by Tim Keller