



Pt 6- **Being Unselfish**

“Looking beyond our own needs.”

Romans 12:13 (nkjv)

*Distributing to the needs of the saints,
given to hospitality.*

Romans 12:13 (niv) *Share with God’s people who are in need.
Practice hospitality.*

Helping to provide the needs of others.

...distributing (sharing)

The word used here means that we should be unrestrained in regarding our property and possessions as opportunities to meet the needs of others.

...to the needs

That is, to distribute food, clothing and shelter etc. This of course, has reference to those who are poor (*eg: mission field, orphans and the widows.*)

...of the saints (Christ followers)

Making the needs of fellow Christ followers our own and helping them out.

Examples from Scripture.

1. By the church at Jerusalem (*a church helping its members*)

Acts 4:32-36 (niv)

(see also Acts 2:44-45; 6:1-6)

2. By the church at Antioch (*a church helping other churches*)

Acts 11:27-30 (niv)

3. By the churches of Macedonia and Achaia (*churches helping another church*)

Romans 15:25-26 (niv)

(see also 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 8:1-24; 9:1-15)

...given to

Pursuing (*as if in a chase or hunting*)

...hospitality

This expression means we should be ready and cheerfully entertain strangers.

Giving hospitality presumes ability and opportunity.

- **Our responsibility is based upon ability.**

2 Corinthians 8:12-13 (nlt) *Whatever you give is acceptable if you give it eagerly. And give according to what you have, not what you don't have. Of course, I don't mean your giving should make life easy for others and hard for yourselves. I only mean that there should be some equality.*

- **Our responsibility is based upon opportunities.**

Galatians 6:10 (nlt) *Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone - especially to those in the family of faith.*

Pursuing hospitality is made possible through preparation.

We are more likely to offer hospitality if prepared beforehand.

2 Corinthians 9:7 (nlt) *You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."*

Cheerful giving is made easier by purposeful planning.

Why not have a place in your personal budget for entertaining people?

The practice of hospitality can take on various forms;

- Housing can be provided through arrangements short stays.
- Food can be given in the form of gift (cards) vouchers or our own tuckerbox ministry.
- Having people in your home for meals or cooking and preparing meals.

Conclusion

Do not neglect to provide for the needs of those who are in need in and out of the church. Do not hesitate to show love for those who are strangers and who are in need.

Let the words of Jesus Himself challenge us to a higher level of giving...

Luke 6:32-36 (nlt) *“If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them! And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much! And if you lend money only to those who can repay you, why should you get credit? Even sinners will lend to other sinners for a full return. “Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked. You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.*

Let the words of Paul challenge us to a higher level of giving...

Philippians 2:1-8 (msg) *If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care - then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand. Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human! Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death - and the worst kind of death at that - a crucifixion.*

Have you received the hospitality that God extends to all who are lost...?

Romans 5:8-10 (msg) *We can understand someone dying for a person worth dying for, and we can understand how someone good and noble could inspire us to selfless sacrifice. But God put his love on the line for us by offering his Son in sacrificial death while we were of no use whatever to him. Now that we are set right with God by means of this sacrificial death, the consummate blood sacrifice, there is no longer a question of being at odds with God in any way. If, when we were at our worst, we were put on friendly terms with God by the sacrificial death of his Son,*