



# PROSPER[us]

## Sermon Notes

  
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Prosper[us]: Sermon Notes

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# WHY SHOULD WE PROSPER?

Last Week: God prospers us not for greed but for generosity.

This Week: God prospers us not for ourselves, but for Himself and others.

*<sup>6</sup>Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. <sup>7</sup>But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also.*

*<sup>8</sup>I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. <sup>9</sup>For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. <sup>10</sup>And in this matter I give my judgment: this benefits you, who a year ago started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it. <sup>11</sup>So now finish doing it as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have. <sup>12</sup>For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have. <sup>13</sup>For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness <sup>14</sup>your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. <sup>15</sup>As it is written, “Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack.”*

2 Corinthians 8:6-15

## WHY SHOULD WE PROSPER?

### OUR GENEROSITY PROVES OUR LOVE (v. 6-8)

*<sup>6</sup>Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. <sup>7</sup>But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also.*

*<sup>8</sup>I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine.*

2 Corinthians 8:6-8

- Grace & Gifts
  - Excelling in faith, speech, knowledge



*<sup>5</sup>that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge*  
1 Corinthians 1:5

• 1 Corinthians 12-14—Spiritual gifts (*charismata*) & grace (*charis*)

*<sup>1</sup>If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.*

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

• “Love Is a Verb” by John Mayer

*Love is a verb  
It ain't a thing  
It's not something you hold  
It's not something you scream  
When you show me love  
I don't need your words*

**OUR GENEROSITY IMITATES JESUS' LOVE (v. 9)**

*<sup>9</sup>For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.*

2 Corinthians 8:9

• Jesus is our Substitute

• Jesus was “rich;” we were “poor”

• Jesus became “poor;” we became “rich”

• The Example of Jesus

*<sup>5</sup>Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup>And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross*

Philippians 2:5-8

• How do we imitate Jesus' love?—Live generously!



## OUR GENEROSITY FULFILLS OUR LOVE (v. 10–11)

*<sup>10</sup>And in this matter I give my judgment: this benefits you, who a year ago started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it. <sup>11</sup>So now finish doing it as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have.*

2 Corinthians 8:10–11

*Giving may start as a response of the heart, but it must move on to an act of the will. If the Corinthians do not finish the work, then in the final analysis all their good intentions amount to nothing.*

Linda Belleville, 2 Corinthians, 217

- How do we match our love with generosity?
  - Begin giving
  - Create margin to be more generous
  - Make your giving regular

## OUR GENEROSITY ENABLES US TO LOVE (v. 12–15)

*<sup>12</sup>For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have. <sup>13</sup>For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness <sup>14</sup>your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. <sup>15</sup>As it is written, “Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack.”*

2 Corinthians 8:6–15

- How does our generosity enable us to love?
  - Proportionally—“it is acceptable according to what a person has”

*<sup>2</sup>On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper.*

1 Corinthians 16:2

- “in keeping with your income” (NIV)
- “Be as generous as you can” (Message)
- Reciprocally—“your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness”





## HOW WILL YOU RESPOND?

- Thank God for his generosity
- Check your heart
- Take steps to become generous
- Give generously