

### Gospel-Centered Community Focuses on:

- Serving the Lord with humility and intensity. Acts 20:18-19
- Speaking truth with honesty and love. Acts 20:20-21
- Striving together amid uncertainty and adversity. Acts 20:22-24

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“To stand uncertainly at a crossroads does not mean God has abandoned me. In those times He watches me with an extremely watchful eye, and He waits until patience and trust are perfected in me...

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If God brings me to a crossroads, it is His business to get me beyond it. I can rejoice in a God who is never mistaken, never late, and never non-pulsed.” —Glyn Evans

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<sup>32</sup>And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. <sup>33</sup>I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel.

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<sup>34</sup>You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. <sup>35</sup>In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus,

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how He Himself said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” <sup>36</sup>And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. <sup>37</sup>And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him,

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<sup>38</sup>being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.

—Acts 20:32-38 ESV

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Gospel-Centered Relationships Focus on...

Sharing Life Together Through  
Grace and Generosity

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“It is more blessed to give  
than to receive.”

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“Generosity is one of the most  
visible evidences of sanctification.”

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10 Reasons It is Better to Give

Giving obeys God's command.

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On the first day of every week,  
each of you is to put something  
aside and store it up, as he may  
prosper, so that there will be no  
collecting when I come.

—I Corinthians 16:2 ESV

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## 10 Reasons It is Better to Give

Giving reflects the Lordship of Christ.

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But seek first the kingdom of  
God and His righteousness,  
and all these things  
will be added to you.

—Matthew 6:33 ESV

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## 10 Reasons It is Better to Give

Giving exhibits God's heart.

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Every good gift and every  
perfect gift is from above,  
coming down from the  
Father of lights with whom  
there is no variation or  
shadow due to change.

—James 1:17 ESV

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## 10 Reasons It is Better to Give

Giving illustrates God's salvation.

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For this is why I wrote,  
that I might test you and  
know whether you are  
obedient in everything.

—2 Corinthians 2:9 ESV

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## 10 Reasons It is Better to Give

Giving trusts God's promise.

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<sup>6</sup>The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully... <sup>10</sup>He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

—2 Corinthians 9:6, 10 ESV

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## 10 Reasons It is Better to Give

Giving pleases God.

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Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

—2 Corinthians 9:7 ESV

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## 10 Reasons It is Better to Give

Giving advances God's Kingdom.

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<sup>18</sup>They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, <sup>19</sup>thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

—1 Timothy 6:18-19 ESV

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### 10 Reasons It is Better to Give

Giving promotes God's work of sanctification.

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"In giving, as money leaves our pockets, sin leaves our hearts."

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Let the thief no longer steal,  
but rather let him labor, doing  
honest work with his own hands,  
so that he may have something  
to share with anyone in need.

—Ephesians 4:28 ESV

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### 10 Reasons It is Better to Give

Giving testifies to God's power.

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And God is able to make all  
grace abound to you, so that  
having all sufficiency in all  
things at all times, you may  
abound in every good work.

—2 Corinthians 9:8 ESV

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### 10 Reasons It is Better to Give

Giving praises God's character.

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What shall I render to the LORD  
for all His benefits to me?  
—Psalm 116:12 ESV

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Gospel-Centered Relationships Focus on...  
Supporting One Another Through  
Tears and Transitions

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...<sup>19</sup>serving the Lord with all  
humility and with tears and with  
trials that happened to me  
through the plots of the Jews...  
<sup>31</sup>Therefore be alert,  
remembering that for three years  
I did not cease night or day to  
admonish every one with tears.

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<sup>37</sup>And there was much weeping  
on the part of all; they embraced  
Paul and kissed him.  
—Acts 20:19, 31, 37 ESV

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Where do tears come from?

Pain  
Loss  
Frustration  
Joy

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“If sinners be damned, at least let  
them leap to Hell over our dead  
bodies. And if they perish, let  
them perish with our arms  
wrapped about their knees,  
imploping them to stay.

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If Hell must be filled, let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go unwarned and unprayed for.”

—Charles Haddon Spurgeon

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<sup>25</sup>And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again... <sup>38</sup>being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.

—Acts 20:25, 38 ESV

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And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

—Acts 20:36 ESV

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<sup>14</sup>For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup>from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, <sup>16</sup>that according to the riches of His glory He may grant you to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in your inner being,

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<sup>17</sup>so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup>may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,

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<sup>19</sup>and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. <sup>20</sup>Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,

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<sup>21</sup>to Him be glory in the church  
and in Christ Jesus throughout  
all generations, forever and ever.

Amen.

—Ephesians 3:14-21 ESV

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