Plastic Donuts: “Giving that Delights the Heart of the Father” 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (Pt 1 of 2) 2/5/2023

* What comes to mind when you think about pleasing God?
* What comes to mind when you hear the words “money” and “church” together? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION #1: What is an acceptable gift to God?**

1. Look up the Scriptures below and answer this question:
2. What is the Biblical Definition of “*acceptable*”?
* adequate, barely good enough, just squeaking by
* pleasing, delightful, surprising, perfect, tearful, proud, ecstatic happiness

Genesis 4:3-5 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 11:4 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 19:14 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Isaiah 58:5 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Leviticus 1:3, 9, 13, 17; 22:20 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Romans 12:1 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Philippians 4:18 (Amplified Version) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Not all gifts are the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to God. Not all are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**QUESTION #2: Does the amount we give to God matter?**

1. What percentage of your income do you give to your home church and other para-church organizations/charities? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Does the amount you give matter? [circle one: YES or NO]

(2 Samuel 24:22-25; Matthew 6:21)

1. My giving needs to impact my \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in order to get my \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ attention.
2. God doesn’t want the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ gift from all His children. He wants a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ gift.

1

1. Why do you give financially to Epic Christian Church?
* I don’t because I:
	+ don’t believe in the church’s mission.
	+ don’t trust the leaders.
	+ have never been taught about it.
	+ have overcommitted myself financially and don’t have any “discretionary” money.
* I give:
	+ out of guilt; begrudgingly.
	+ out of obligation; I’m supposed to tithe (give 10%).
	+ to earn brownie points with God; to gain His favor.
	+ out of joy; to be part of building God’s Kingdom!
1. What do we learn from the Apostle Paul about giving?

***6 Remember this--a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. 7 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." 8 And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. (2 Corinthians 9:6-8 NLT)***

1. God commands us to give \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

(Exodus 25:2; Deuteronomy 15:7-8, 11; 16:10)

1. We get to determine the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of our gifts. There is tremendous God-given freedom AND \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in that.

Next Week (2/12):

* **QUESTION #3: What is the acceptable standard of giving?**
* **QUESTION #4: What makes our gift pleasing to God?**

Resources:

-*Plastic Donuts* by Jeff Anderson

-RightNow Media video library: text **EPICCHRISTIAN**to **49775**

 OR [https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/epicchristian](https://shared.outlook.inky.com/link?domain=app.rightnowmedia.org&t=h.eJxljkEOgyAURK9iWDcgIlBdeRXAX8BWIIgxadO7V5aNu0nmTd580J5faGyQKyVtIyEqJZy9dSXEY4XZKxyzJUv0gUDyxrjst-JVQLcGPeswQDkJQWXLWEcWB_mtIdvpjzZuz8ZhE1cySCHowDTXWssH52buuzNBy2hHtWKECsl6wSll-C6qBqpmBWWdCpuJpUyXgxWbK3Ztvj_W7kq9.MEQCIDMJ7j-BTaBPQAJXlW7Kq-koMQj5qPnnmNOuuwp1vq59AiB8164bNDXVQLOqBJb0cv2qx0yfnpNcgUa1QUFhUQPs1w) ; get app

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Epic’s Discipleship Environments

**Missional Community (MC)**: an extended spiritual family, led by ordinary people, that is outward-focused consisting of ~6-20 missionary servants (core of 6-8 believers) sent to a particular group of people as disciples who make other disciple-makers in the everyday stuff of life. Increasingly on mission in their neighborhoods, where they work, play, learn and shop, MCs live life together and gather in predictable patterns in homes for meals with People of Peace, including not-yet-believers. MCs start with eventual multiplication as a core value.

**DNA Group**: an inward-focused group of 3-5 people of the same gender who are committed to helping each other live out their discipleship to Jesus through **D**iscovery in the Word (bible study), **N**urturing each other with the Gospel and **A**cting--obeying the Holy Spirit with accountability. Ideally, DNA Groups would form out of MCs. The 5 questions of Discovery Bible Study (DBS) will be the foundation of our study of the Scriptures:

1. What does this passage teach us about God? [attributes, character]
2. What does this passage teach us about what has He done, especially through Jesus? [in history, in my life, in Scriptures]
3. Who am I/who are we because of 1 & 2? [identity]
4. How should I respond and get to live now because of 1, 2 & 3? [“I will…”]
5. Who will I tell?

DNA Groups will also start with eventual multiplication as a core value.

**One-on-One Discipling**:same gender discipleship, often for specific issues**.** Disciplers are careful to make disciples of Jesus, not them!

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