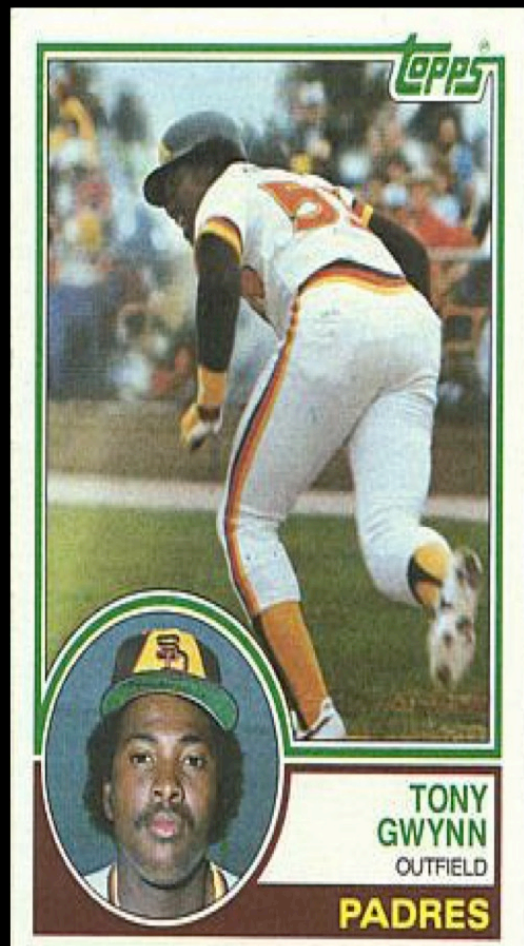


# Philippians 2:1-11



# Cultivating Christian Generosity

With Bob Russell

- As Christians, be humble, put the needs of others before your own. Banish selfishness and pride from your thinking and how you act.
- Remember what Jesus gave up: equality with God. There has never been, and never will be, anything greater in the universe. But Jesus gave it up, humbling himself and went to the cross for us.

“One of the great issues of life facing Christians in every age, and especially in times and places of great prosperity (like 21st century America) is how to think about and feel about and handle our money and our possessions. For Jesus this was simply huge. He spoke about it over and over again. He gave promises and warnings and commandments. He rebuked people bent on bigger and bigger barns for the sake of their ease. He told stories and parables. By hoarding possessions, he said, you can perish, and by giving them you can lay up treasures in heaven. How we handle our money and possessions is the barometer of how we trust God and treasure Christ. Where you treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

-John Piper-

**It All Belongs to God.**

**That's right, everything.**

**Yes, even (fill in the blank).**

## **Psalm 24:1**

The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.

## **Deuteronomy 10:14**

Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it.

## **Psalm 50:10 -12**

For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills.

I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine. "If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and its fullness are mine.

## **Deuteronomy 8:18**

You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth

## **1 Samuel 2:7**

The LORD makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and he exalts.

## **Corinthians 6:19**

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, **20** for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

## **1 Corinthians 7: 22**

For he who was called in the Lord as a slave is a freedman of the Lord. Likewise he who was free when called is a slave of Christ. **23** You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of men. **24** So, brothers, in whatever condition each was called, there let him remain with God.

## **Ecclesiastes 2:24**

There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God, from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment?

**Our calling is to  
stewardship,  
not ownership**

“Hold everything in your hands lightly,  
otherwise it hurts when God pries your  
fingers open.”

-Corrie ten Boom-

**Focus on Gods Promises to Care for  
You!**

### **Jeremiah 29:11**

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

### **Philippians 4:19**

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

### **2 Corinthians 9: 8**

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.

### **Romans 8: 28, 31-32**

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

**1) Being generous with our money and possessions is the antidote for materialism and greed.**



**1) Being generous with our money and possessions is the antidote for materialism and greed.**

A. Materialism is idolatry, it makes collecting possessions the ultimate thing.

**1) Being generous with our money and possessions is the antidote for materialism and greed.**

A. Materialism is idolatry, it makes collecting possessions the ultimate thing.

B. Greed is sinful, not because being wealthy is a sin.

“Too often we assume that God has increased our income to increase our standard of living, when his stated purpose is to increase our standard of giving.”

-Randy Alcorn, Money, Possessions and Eternity-

**How Do We Then Live Generous Lives?**

## **2 Corinthians 9:6-7**

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

**God is Glorified in Our Generosity**

## 1 John 2:5-6

By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

## 1 Corinthians 10: 33, 12:1

just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

## James 2: 15-16

If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?

