

2 Cor. 8:1-7 "A Pattern of Charity"

1. They gave under very unfavorable circumstances. Verse 2
  1. They were in much affliction
  2. They were in deep poverty.
2. Though afflicted and poor they gave "beyond their power." Verse 3.
  1. A modern curse of the church is small giving.
3. They gave voluntarily, "they were willing of themselves." Verse 3.
  1. Compulsory kindness is of little worth.
  2. "Voluntary offerings" are often anything but voluntary.
4. They gave without urgent appeal. They gave "of their own accord."
  1. They did not require the importunities of a collection sermon, or a giving sermon.
  2. They required only to know of the need; the charity was spontaneous.
5. They gave with joy. Verse 2. They reaped the first fruits of charity at the time of the seed sowing.
6. They gave themselves, Verse 5, 1. To the Lord. 2. Unto us—the apostles

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