

Activate 5 - Share - the Generous Church
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Acts 2:45, 4:32-37
Deuteronomy 15:7-11

“They would sell pieces of property and possessions and distribute the proceeds to everyone who needed them.” (Acts 2:45, CEB)

*“The community of believers was one in heart and mind. None of them would say, “This is mine!” about any of their possessions, but held everything in **common**.” (Acts 4:32, CEB)*

Koinos (greek) - common

Compare to Koinonia - Community

They held their possessions “in common” or FOR the community.

They used what they had for the benefit of all.

“There were no needy persons among them. Those who owned properties or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds from the sales, and place them in the care and under the authority of the apostles. Then it was distributed to anyone who was in need.” (Acts 4:34–35, CEB)

Sharing/Generosity has deep roots in Judaism (and Christianity)

Giving to the needy (orphans, widows, immigrants)

This is built into the society and faith of Judaism.

Giving to the faith community also.

provides for the Tabernacle/Temple which provides key services on behalf of the community.

facilitate forgiveness, restoration, healing

provides new faith communities (New Testament)

Generosity opens our eyes to the needs of others.

Karam - Generosity, the core of hospitality

Tithe - A Tenth of the year’s bounty was brought to the Tabernacle/Temple

“Bring the whole tenth-part to the storage house so there might be food in my house. Please test me in this, says the Lord of heavenly forces. See whether I do not open all the windows of the heavens for you and empty out a blessing until there is enough.” (Malachi 3:10, CEB)

Generosity is to be a Lifestyle

Sharing teaches us important lessons:

1. Some have more than others
2. We often want more than we have (not satisfied with what we have)

3. We all have something to share
4. Sharing helps me see value in others
5. Sharing helps all of us have what we need (Community - we need each other)
6. Sharing helps me hold loosely to what I have (builds a healthier relationship with our stuff)

“God so loved the world **that he gave** his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won’t perish but will have eternal life.” (John 3:16, CEB)

Generous with

- Words: encouraging, edifying, assisting, helping
- Time: caring, being, befriending
- Skills: using, helping, teaching
- Stuff: sharing our treasures with those who have less or none, money, possessions, collections
- Experience: mentoring, consulting, sharing, teaching

Generosity/Sharing is Love in Action.