

Charity

December 14, 2025

Charity means ‘Love, in the Christian sense’. But love, in the Christian sense, does not mean an emotion. It is a state not of the feelings, but of the will; that state of the will which we have naturally about ourselves and must learn to have about other people.

The rule for all of us is perfectly simple. Do not waste time bothering whether you ‘love’ your neighbor; act as if you did. As soon as we do this, we find one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love him. If you injure someone you dislike, you will find yourself disliking him more. If you do him a good turn, you will find yourself disliking him less.

Whenever we do good to another self, just because it is a self, made (like us) by God, and desiring its own happiness as we desire ours, we shall have learned to love it a little more or, at least to dislike it less.

The difference between a Christian and a worldly man is not that the worldly man has only affections or ‘likings’ and the Christian has only ‘charity’. The worldly man treats certain people kindly because he ‘likes’ them: the Christian, trying to treat everyone kindly, finds himself liking more and more people as he goes on – including people he could not even have imagined himself liking at the beginning.

Good and evil both increase at compound interest.

1. Charity Begins With the Heart

2. Charity Should Be Directed Toward Real Needs

3. Charity Prioritizes the Household of Faith

4. Charity is Sacrificial, Not Leftover

5. Charity is Not About Public Recognition

6. Charity is Part of Worship

7. The Church Should Lead in Charity

In short, John MacArthur views charity as:

- Heart Driven
 - Focused on real needs
 - An act of worship
 - Biblical and disciplined
 - Sacrificial but wise
 - Done quietly for God's glory
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- Charity is Rooted in Regeneration, Not Religion
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- Charity Must Avoid Sentimentality
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- Charity Should Reflect God's Design for Responsibility
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- The Church's Main Mission Isn't Social Welfare, but it does include Compassion
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- Charity should be planned, not spontaneous leftovers
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- Charity is a Private Act of Worship, Not Public Virtue-Signaling
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- Charity Prioritizes "The Household of Faith"
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- Charity is Part of the Believer's Assurance
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Scriptures: 2 Cor 9:7; 2 Thess 3:10; 1 Tim 5:8; Gal 6:10; Mark 12:41-42; Matthew 6; 1 Tim 5:3-16; 2 Cor 5:17; 1 John 3:17-18; Phil 1:9; 2 Thess 3:10; 1 Tim 5:14-16; James 1:27; Acts 2:44-45; Acts 6; 1 Cor 16:1-2; Matt 6:1-4; 1 Tim 5:8; Gal 6:10