

When We Need to Be “Liberal”

2 Cor. 9:6-13

Introduction:

- A. “Liberal” has a variety of meanings and connotations.
 - 1. “Not strict or literal; loose or approximate: *a liberal translation*.” (MS Bookshelf Dictionary)
 - a. Political connotations.
 - b. Religious connotations.
 - c. “Brotherhood” connotations.
 - 2. “Tending to give freely; generous: *a liberal benefactor*”. (Ibid.)
- B. “Liberal” is sometimes good and sometimes bad.
 - 1. We should be conservative rather than liberal in our interpretation and application Scriptures (2 John 9-11; Rev. 22:18,19; 1 Cor. 4:6; cf. Matt. 22:32; Gal. 3:16).
 - 2. We should be liberal rather than skimpy in many areas:

Discussion:

I. We Need to Be Liberal in Our Giving (2 Cor. 9:13).

- A. First, in the giving of ourselves (2 Cor. 8:5).
- B. Then, in the giving of our goods. (2 Cor 9:6-7).
 - 1. The early church at Jerusalem.
 - 2. The poor widow (Luke 21:1-4).

II. We Need to Be Liberal (Abounding) in the Lord’s Work (1 Cor. 15:58).

- A. Two attitudes contrasted — “sparingly” versus “bountifully” (cf. 2 Cor. 9:6).
 - 1. One says, “As little as I can get by with...”
 - 2. Other says, “As much as I can do consistent with all my duties.” (Cf. 2nd mile - Matt. 5:39-41)
 - 3. Not “how much do I have to do”, but “how much can I do?”
 - 4. Many say not getting much out of their religion — may be sowing sparingly.
- B. In assembling with saints (Heb. 10:25).
 - 1. The Lord’s day assembly.
 - 2. Other assemblies for worship and edification.
- C. In studying our Bibles (Acts 17:11).
- D. In Evangelism (Sowing the seed of the kingdom).
- E. In good works in general (cf. Gal. 6:10).
 - 1. *Rich* rather than *poor* in good works (1 Tim. 6:18).
 - 2. “Abound in everything ...” (2 Cor. 8:7).
 - 3. Hospitality (Rom. 12:13; 1 Pet. 4:9).

III. We Need to Be Liberal (Abound) in the “Christian Graces” (2 Pet. 1:8).

- A. Do we want to add as little of each of these as possible? (Note each one).
- B. Or, do we want to strive to have as much of each one as possible?

Conclusion:

- A. Let us learn to be liberal these things for Lord’s sake, the church’s sake and our sake.
- B. How successful would we be in any other field with a “just enough to get by” attitude.
 - 1. In the home.
 - 2. In business.
 - 3. In recreation.