



Sermon Discussion Questions

For small group leaders or for a whole small group to use

“They Gave Themselves First to the Lord” 1 Corinthians 8:1-7, November 23, 2025

Dave Newton

Sermon Overview

Main Idea

The Apostle Paul works to convince the church of Corinth that, when faithfully applied, the Gospel of Christ must penetrate and rule over every believer’s heart—transforming every aspect of life, including the motives behind a believer’s giving.

Sermon Outline

N/A

Quotation(s)

N/A

Discussion Questions

Read the Scripture Text (if the text is shorter, consider reading it together several times).

Initial Engagement

- What is the main idea of the text, or what did the sermon focus on? (See above to review the main point)
- What insight from the text or sermon stood out to you most, and why? (Encourage several people to share)

Deeper Reflection on the Meaning and Implications

1. Pastor Dave said the Apostle Paul is a “bloodhound of the gospel,” seeking to reveal its authority over every aspect of the Christian life. In this passage, Paul seeks to apply the gospel to the Corinthians’ giving and to the motives behind their giving. How do you see the gospel on display in your giving? If you struggle to see the gospel as the driver of your giving, what are some changes that might be needed for how you give?
2. Jesus said that, when we give him our lives, he will put in us hearts that flow with rivers of living water. Then, equipped with the indwelling Spirit, believers are able to deny their selfish desires and obey God’s law, transforming their lives in every way. How has the Holy Spirit already transformed your desires for money and wealth. In what ways is the Holy Spirit currently working to further transform those desires and your giving?
3. In this epistle, Paul uses the word “grace” a total of eighteen times, ten of which are found in Chapters 8 & 9—chapters that are specifically focused on giving. “Grace” appears three times in this short passage of verses 1-7. As a group, explore how Paul uses “grace” in those three instances. How do you see God’s grace in the context of giving? What might be some consequences if we allowed wrong motives to drive our giving?



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4. Pastor Dave warned us to not be lop-sided Christians who excel in certain areas of the Christian life while, at the same time, fail to obey God in other areas. Instead, in vs. 7, Paul calls Christians to “excel in everything.” Is generosity an area where you excel? Or has faithful giving historically been a blind spot for you?
5. Pastor Dave identified three ways in which God tests our giving: (1) the test of a person who is in need to see whether he can be generous with little, (2) the test of abundance to see how a person’s giving is shown in times of plenty and (3) the test of the middle class, which is concerned with the giving of a person who has both need and abundance. How have you seen God test your giving? Have you ever been encouraged by how God has tested another Christian’s giving?

Final Response

- What is one thing you want to remember or do in light of this sermon or discussion?