

THE REVOJUTION

CHRIST ENTHRONED. HUMAN EXISTENCE REDEFINED.

Sunday 22nd July 2018

Richard Beaumont
Generosity Redefined

As we continue our Revolution series, Richard Beaumont NewHope's Chair of Church Council, challenged us to think about six principles of generosity that we should apply to our lives.

As you begin the study, consider for a moment a time when you've had the opportunity to be generous.

- What prompted your generosity?
- Was this behaviour unusual, or normal for you?

Consider a moment when you've benefited from someone else's generosity.

- How did this feel?
- Did it encourage you to also be more generous?

As you reflect on these questions, think about who influenced your understanding of generosity. How have these understandings shaped your life?

Richard briefly outlined six principles of generosity that we as believers should understand.

1) God gave first

Scripture is full of examples of God's generous love for his people – none greater than John 3:16. God *gave* his only son that we might have eternal life.

2) Generosity is an issue of the heart

Drawing on the words of Jesus (Matthew 6:19-14) Richard reminded us that the priorities we place on 'things' are a reflection of our love for God. Our challenge is to live lives that reflect our love and commitment to God above anything else.



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3) God owns it all

Think about all of your possessions, skills and abilities. Are these things that we own and use for God's glory, or are they things that we have become too attached to? Richard challenged us to think of these things as being on 'loan' from God. Our responsibility is to use them well for His glory and His kingdom.

4) Seeking first the Kingdom

Reflecting on his leadership role at Entrust Foundation, Richard challenged us to think not about 'who' to give to, but on how to give to serve God's Kingdom. This applies not only to our finances, but to the way we use our skills, time and energy.

5) Heaven is our home

In Philippians 3:20, Paul urges believers to think of their citizenship in heaven. To reflect on the incredible privileges, responsibilities and perspective that being citizens of Heaven creates for those who follow Jesus. Ultimately, we need to understand how much our earthly possessions really matter in the context of eternity. (Luke 12:13-21)

6) Generosity brings joy

Drawing on two key passages, Richard reminded us it is better to give than receive (Acts 20:35) and that God loves a cheerful giver (2 Cor 9:6-8). Generosity is an opportunity for us to release ourselves into new works for God's kingdom.

As you read over these 6 principles. How do they align with some of the principles you already apply to generosity in your own life?

Looking over the 6 principles, which do you find most challenging? Why?

When do you find it most difficult to be generous? When is it easy?

As you close the group, take time to pray for each other and to ask God to show you areas of your life where you can become more generous.

- Take time to pray for the communities around NewHope (Blackburn, Croydon and Surrey Hills). Pray that we would display God's generosity to our community.
- Pray for our NewHope Global partners and for generosity to be evident in the way we support them and their work.

