

THE CONFIRMATION OF OUR LOVE

2 Corinthians 8:1-12

PASTOR PAT NEMMERS

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The questions below are intended to be used by Saylorville Church Cell Groups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message at Saylorville. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

1. Sunday was Valentine's Day. As a group, come up with a simple definition of "love."
 1. Using your group's definition, who are some people that you love?
 2. Parents, sons, daughters, husbands, wives - how do you show your loved ones that you love them? (If you're brave, ask wives to share how they know their husbands love them!)
 3. Rate your reaction to this statement: *We show our love for Christ by giving financially to His work.*
Always False // Usually False // Sometimes True but Sometimes False // Usually True // Always True

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

1. Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-12
2. What is your one thing from Sunday? What stuck out to you about what you heard (a new idea, an application, a challenge, a question, or a new thing you learned)?
3. In his message, Pastor Pat shared **Six Observations On The Grace Of Giving:**
 1. **Grace giving is prompted by the grace of God (vs. 1, 6, 7, 9, 19)**
 1. What are you holding on to that you are afraid God might ask you to give to Him?
 2. What might happen if you refuse to loosen your grip and give that to God? What if you let go?
 2. **Grace giving first plays with our brains then pulls at our hearts (vs. 2-4)**
 1. The math never works out when the grace of God works in. Have you ever given more than you thought made sense financially? What led you to do that and how did it make you feel later?
 2. Are there circumstances in your life that you have allowed to become an obstacle to giving sacrificially?
 3. **God's grace causes us to surrender our hearts before we surrender our savings (vs. 5)**
 1. Is financial giving always an accurate test of our surrender? Why or why not?
 2. Think about this: How much can you hold back from God and still consider your giving "sacrificial"?
 4. **God's grace reminds us that the use of our gifts is a poor coverup for not giving (vs. 7)**
 1. How would you respond to someone who says, "I serve God with my life, so I don't need to give Him my money"?
 5. **Grace giving is the confirmation of our love for Jesus (vs. 8)**
 1. Other than Abraham, can you think of biblical characters whose love for God was proven by their willingness to sacrifice for Him? What can you learn from them?
 6. **Grace giving's ultimate example is Jesus (vs. 9)**
 1. How can you respond as a "hilarious giver" this week to the life-giving sacrifice of Jesus?

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray that your group will grow in the grace of sacrificial giving.

