

Welcome to the
Connecting Class

Connecting with God

Connecting with His Church

Connecting with His World

Through

Exposition of light in Scripture

Experience of life in community

Expression of love in ministry

apttoteach.org

2 Corinthians 8:7-15

**Actions speak louder
than words!**

Top Ten Reason's Christians are not generous.

1. They believe that their stuff is THEIR stuff.
2. They look at giving as a fee for services rendered.
3. They don't see the toxic nature of hoarding material stuff.
4. They believe that keeping money brings security.
5. They have found flaws in the church or Christian organizations.
6. They choose to live by fear rather than faith.
7. They believe that they have too much to lose.
8. They don't have enough to give.
9. They want to teach their heirs to walk by sight.
10. They want to be the richest person in the cemetery.

Some common mistakes churches make

Don't talk about money.

Talk too much about money.

Talk about money in the wrong way:

needs, evangelism, rules

2 Corinthians 8

⁷ But just as you abound in everything, in faith and utterance and knowledge and in all earnestness and in the love we inspired in you, {see} that you abound in this gracious work also. ⁸ I am not speaking {this} as a command, but as proving through the earnestness of others the sincerity of your love also. ⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich. ¹⁰ And I give {my} opinion in this matter, for this is to your advantage, who were the first to begin a year ago not only to do {this,} but also to desire {to do it.} ¹¹ But now finish doing it also; that just as {there was} the readiness to desire it, so {there may be} also the completion of it by your ability. ¹² For if the readiness is present, it is acceptable according to what {a man} has, not according to what he does not have. ¹³ For {this} is not for the ease of others {and} for your affliction, but by way of equality - ¹⁴ at this present time your abundance {being a supply} for their want, that their abundance also may become {a supply} for your want, that there may be equality; ¹⁵ as it is written, "He who {gathered} much did not have too much, and he who {gathered} little had no lack."

**"We believe
in giving."**

**"We talk
about giving."**

**"We plan
to give."**



James 2

¹⁵ If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for *their* body, what use is that? ¹⁷ Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, *being* by itself."

2 Corinthians 8

⁷ But just as you abound in everything, in faith and utterance and knowledge and in all earnestness and in the love we inspired in you, see that you abound in this **gracious work** also."

**Spiritual virtue
is not only measured in
knowledge, words, & faith**

**but in gracious acts
of generosity.**



**Actions
speak louder
than words.**

2 Corinthians 8

⁸ I am **not speaking this as a command**, but as proving through the earnestness of others the sincerity of your love also. ⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich."

**Jesus' ministry
is not only in words
but in dramatic action.**

2 Corinthians 8

¹⁰ And I give my opinion in this matter, for this is to your advantage, who were the first to begin a year ago not only to do this, but also to desire to do it. ¹¹ But now **finish doing it** also; that just as there was the readiness to desire it, so there may be also the **completion of it** by your ability."

**Good motives
are incomplete
without good behavior.**

2 Corinthians 8

¹² For if the readiness is present, it is acceptable according to what a man has, not according to what he does not have. ¹³ For this is not for the ease of others and for your affliction, but by way of **equality** - ¹⁴ at this present time your abundance being a supply for their want, that their abundance also may become a supply for your want, that there may be **equality**; ¹⁵ as it is written, "He who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little had no lack."" (Ex.16:18 of Manna in the wilderness)

**Christian community
is not just sharing a common
identity
but is also sharing common
resources.**

Acts 2:44-45

"And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need."

Acts 4:32

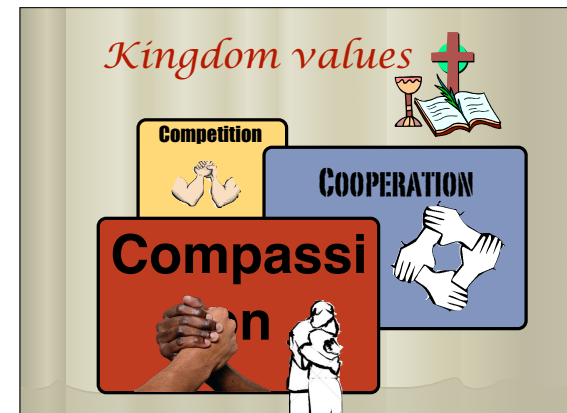
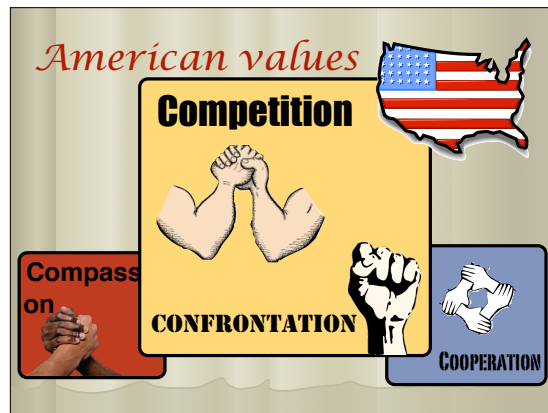
"And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them."

Is socialism consistent with Christianity?

✓ The spirit of the socialistic ideal (from each according to their ability and to each according to their need) is consistent with the Kingdom of God.

But

- ✓ It is applied only to the community of faith not to a pluralistic culture.
- ✓ It is by grace (voluntary, optional) not by law.
- ✓ It is practical only in a desperate context.
- ✓ It has been more harmful than helpful in the real (fallen) world.
- ✓ The Bible assumes and endorses the private ownership of property.



Tips to spiritual virtue

- ✓ **WALK YOUR TALK.** If you want to be heard, lead with your actions.
- ✓ **ACT FROM YOUR HEART.** If you want real change, address your inner life.
- ✓ **TAKE "BODY LIFE" SERIOUSLY.** If you want to be treated like family, act like family.

2 Corinthians



"pursuit of happiness"



"liberty"



"pursuit of happiness"



"liberty"

PERSONAL RIGHTS



(freedom)



"pursuit of happiness"



"liberty"

Public Good
(Virtue)

PERSONAL RIGHTS



(freedom)



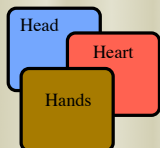
Shalom

harmony, synergism, coordination, inter dependency, peace

Shalom

harmony, synergism, coordination, inter dependency, peace

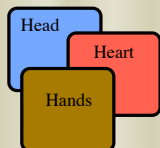
Personal
Inner peace



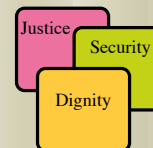
Shalom

harmony, synergism, coordination, inter dependency, peace

Personal
Inner peace



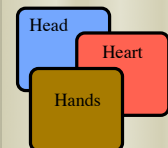
Social
Outer peace



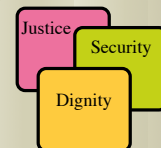
Shalom

harmony, synergism, coordination, inter dependency, peace

Personal
Inner peace



Social
Outer peace



You might be a generous giver if:

- ✓ You take time off work to be with a friend at a time of great pain or joy in their lives.
- ✓ You gladly disclose your finances with those to whom you are accountable.
- ✓ You take the initiative in seeking out needs, so that you can give your, time, money, and prayer.
- ✓ You willingly share financial resources with a person in need without a tax deduction.
- ✓ You take the initiative to throw a party in honor of another.
- ✓ You count it a great honor to sacrifice for the well-being of others.

- ✓ You welcome the help of others who seek to minister to you.
- ✓ You put the needs with others above your own personal comfort.
- ✓ You find great satisfaction and joy in the giving of yourself to the benefit of the larger community.
- ✓ You see the needs of others as opportunities and invitations to minister to them.
- ✓ You treat your spiritual family like your biological family when it comes to offering assistance in areas of need.
- ✓ You make giving a priority in the management of your time, treasure, and talents.

