

“Generous Groups”
Series” G IS FOR GENEROSITY
January 16/17, 2010

<i>Name that Group</i>

1. Generous groups are open to addition

Acts 2:46-47

*They worshiped **together** at the Temple each day, met in **homes** for the Lord’s Supper, and **shared** their meals with great joy and **generosity**—all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of **all** the people. And each day the Lord **added** to their fellowship those who were being saved.*

- You want to see others connected
- You’re willing to gather regularly
- You’re willing to share generously

2. Generous groups offer helpful subtraction

Philippians 4:8-9

*And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your **thoughts** on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. **Think** about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Keep putting into **practice** all you **learned** and **received** from me—everything you **heard** from me and **saw** me doing. **Then the God of peace will be with you.***

- It’s all about the “takeaways”
- It happens best in study groups
- It involves a fair amount of unlearning too

3. Generous groups are an antidote to division

1 Corinthians 1:10-11

*I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in **harmony** with each other. Let there be no **divisions** in the church. Rather, be of **one mind**, **united** in thought and **purpose**. For some members of Chloe's household have told me about your quarrels, my dear brothers and sisters.*

- Your love for Christ creates unity
- Your love for each other creates harmony
- Your commitment to the mission and vision creates a singular purpose

4. Generous groups encourage multiplication

- It's the result on ongoing addition
- And it's the opposite of division
- The end result is maximum impact

Romans 16:1-16

*I commend to you our sister **Phoebe**, who is a deacon in the church in Cenchrea. Welcome her in the Lord as one who is worthy of honor among God's people. Help her in whatever she needs, for she has been helpful to many, and especially to me.*

*Give my greetings to **Priscilla** and **Aquila**, my co-workers in the ministry of Christ Jesus. In fact, they once risked their lives for me. I am thankful to them, and so are all the Gentile churches. Also give my greetings to the church that meets in their home.*

*Greet my dear friend **Epenetus**. He was the first person from the province of Asia to become a follower of Christ. Give my greetings to **Mary**, who has worked so hard for your benefit. Greet **Andronicus** and **Junia**, my fellow Jews, who were in*

prison with me. They are highly respected among the apostles and became followers of Christ before I did.

*Greet **Ampliatius**, my dear friend in the Lord. Greet **Urbanus**, our co-worker in Christ, and my dear friend **Stachys**. Greet **Apelles**, a good man whom Christ approves. And give my greetings to the believers from the household of **Aristobulus**. Greet **Herodion**, my fellow Jew. Greet the Lord's people from the household of **Narcissus**.*

*Give my greetings to **Tryphena** and **Tryphosa**, the Lord's workers, and to dear **Persis**, who has worked so hard for the Lord. Greet **Rufus**, whom the Lord picked out to be his very own; and also his dear mother, who has been a mother to me.*

*Give my greetings to **Asyncritus**, **Phlegon**, **Hermes**, **Patrobas**, **Hermas**, and the brothers and sisters who meet with them. Give my greetings to **Philologus**, **Julia**, **Nereus** and his sister, and to **Olympas** and all the believers who meet with them.*

Greet each other in Christian love.

All the churches of Christ send you their greetings.