

# COMMITTING TO CONNECTION

#7 "Connecting with Others Through Giving"

The Vineyard Church of Conroe

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## Sermon Notes

*For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.* Colossians 1:16-17

### OUR LIFE IN CHRIST IS A Commitment to Connection

*Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. <sup>7</sup> Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.* 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

### A Connection WITH OTHERS THROUGH GIVING

#### Is a Commitment TO LIVE DEPENDENT UPON GOD

##### I. Acts 4:32-35 - Money

<sup>32</sup> All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. <sup>33</sup> With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all <sup>34</sup> that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales <sup>35</sup> and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

**We Can Connect with Others when we...**

**Commit to GIVING OUR MONEY**

## **A PLAN FOR GIVING:**

### **1. TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

Deut. 14:22-23, Malachi 3:6-10

### **2. GIFTS OVER AND ABOVE THE TITHE & OFFERING**

Acts 20:33-35

<sup>10</sup> *God is the One who gives seed to the farmer and bread for food. He will give you all the seed you need and make it grow so there will be a great harvest from your goodness.<sup>11</sup> He will make you rich in every way so that you can always give freely. And your giving through us will cause many to give thanks to God.<sup>12</sup> This service you do not only helps the needs of God's people, it also brings many more thanks to God.<sup>13</sup> It is a proof of your faith. Many people will praise God because you obey the Good News of Christ—the gospel you say you believe—and because you freely share with them and with all others.* 2 Corinthians 9:10-13

## **II. Luke 14:12-14**

Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. <sup>13</sup> But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind,<sup>14</sup> and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

## **We Can Connect with Others when we...**

### **Commit to GIVING OUR TIME AND ENERGY**

<sup>14-16</sup> *“Here’s another way to put it: You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We’re going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don’t think I’m going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I’m putting you on a light stand. Now that I’ve put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you’ll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.* Matthew 5:14-16 MSG