

Doing good to people in need

Do not withhold good from those who deserve it when it's in your power to help them.
(Proverbs 3:27)

Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.
(Galatians 6:10)

Lots to think about in today's passages!

First of all, what does it mean to "do good?" And who gets to define "good," the giver or the recipient?

NOTE: For us, this conversation is about finding effective ways to Serve the City that will forward the purposes of the Kingdom.

The Word says that we (the church) should do good to "those who deserve it." That's a loaded term for us, because there is so much fraud and entitlement in the current system. It seems to be imperative that we follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit as we seek deserving individuals to care for.

It also says that we should serve "whenever we have the opportunity." While it's true that, as long as our motives are pure, serving is the right thing to do no matter whom or how we serve. But when looking for fruitful places to serve, the litmus test for the church must be "What does love look like?"

Paul also implies that doing good to others must begin "in the family of faith." We all know that's a good idea, but we often struggle to identify genuine needs in the fellowship. Most of us are understandably shy about making ourselves vulnerable to the point of asking for help. To that end, we all need to be sensitive to needs of the people we see on Sundays. Look people in the eye when you shake hands with them. Watch closely when you ask, "How are you?" Do not pry but show genuine interest in the question. If you are sincere, they will sense that and a conversation may ensue.

As a spirit of care and generosity overtakes our fellowship, Serving our City will become a natural outflow of what God is doing among us.

Pray

We are grateful, Father, for how you care for us. Our heart is to share your generosity towards us with people in our city who do not know you. May we be faithful to represent You.

DAY 16
Tuesday, January 23rd

RECURRING NEEDS

Revival
Repentance
Wisdom
Marriages
Families
Sick/Grieving
Depression/Mental illness
City Church
Church leaders
Children
Youth
Singles
Senior citizens
Volunteers
Teachers and support staff
Emergency personnel
Business community
Elected officials
Missionaries
Worldwide church
The lost

REFLECTIONS
