



First Thing First
Matthew 6:21; 1 Corinthians 16:1-3
Message from Pastor Martin Hawley
November 6, 2016

The Bottom Line: Think and behave like a giver rather than a consumer. You'll give more, consume less, and have more left over.

Introduction: The purpose of this series is to teach you how to be generous. My goal isn't to get you to give but to move beyond mere giving to being generous.

Everybody gives something somewhere, but few people are truly generous.

Generosity is more than random acts of giving.

Promise: When you become generous, you will give more, save more, and consume less. Jesus promises happiness.

Generosity is the premediated, calculated, designated emancipation of personal financial assets.

Premeditated: Generosity Requires a Plan

Most people are 3S Givers – Spontaneous, Sporadic, and Sparing.

Most people consume first, save (if they are able), and give (what's left over).

Secret: When you give first and save second, you'll find it easier to live on the rest (i.e. stay with a budget). A budget is not a *no*. It's a *yes* to your planned future.

Calculated: Generosity Requires a Specific Amount or Percentage

Pick a percentage. Give it first. Raise it occasionally. You never miss money you give away; instead, you always miss money you waste, misspend, lose, improperly invest, or loan to your brother-in-law.

Be a 3P Giver – Percentage, Priority, and Progressive (increase over time).

Designated: Generosity Requires a Destination Worthy of Your Heart

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Matthew 6:21).”

This is how you connect your money to your heart. This is what puts the “fun” in “funding.” You get to decide ahead of time where to give.

Saving is how you say yes to **you**.
Generosity is how you say yes to what's **important** to you.

How to Choose Your Designation

What are you **grateful** for?
 What are you **broken** over?

1 Corinthians 16:1-3 (page 1024)

Most people live according to the Great American Insanity Cycle:

The Great American Insanity Cycle 1



Solution: Flip It! Give First, Save Second, and Live (Consume) Last.



Conclusion:

Everybody gives. You are rest of your life. Learn to sounds crazy, but Jesus crazier!

going to give for the live a generous life. It said the alternative is

The alternative reduces you to an owner (which is a myth) and a consumer (which leaves you discontent). So choose your crazy!

Remember what Jesus said: *Happy is the person whose life is ordered around giving rather than receiving.*

NEXT STEPS:

- Memorize: Acts 20:35.**
- Stop Living the Great American Insanity Cycle.**
- Begin Giving First, Saving Second, and Consuming Last.**
- Attend Next Sunday for a Bonus Message: Crazy Like Us.**