

Generosity of Character

What I'm wanting to address here is that generosity is as much a part of a person's character as ethics and morals. These last two are what Miles Munroe is concentrating on in his book¹ on character. But really, what are we to think of character as?

Kingdom character is to be like Father. It's as simple and straightforward as that.

Our responsibility as sons of the Kingdom is to faithfully represent Father to the world. We represent the most powerful being in existence and he's chosen to reveal himself through us. That's an honour and a weighty task. If we misrepresent him, then people get the wrong idea about him and his character. We do him a great disservice if we fail in this task – actually we are sinning.

The aim of character development can also be said to be, 'becoming like our King'. In biblical, church, terms this is called being “Christ-like”.

Father's character includes: love, compassion, forgiveness, mercy, and generosity, just to name a few. We know about the first 4 in this list, but our church teaching about generosity is a bit skew-whiff. Steve Graves makes this point about it:

“Generosity isn't just about what you do. It's about who you are. It's a quality of personhood.

Usually, we limit it to money, but generosity is more than giving excess money to charity. Generosity is deeper than money and wider than philanthropy. It is more than dropping your loose change in the Salvation Army bucket at Christmas time, sharing your old stuff with those in need, or writing a check to get a tax deduction.

Generosity is an attitude, a lifestyle, a posture of living. Generous people give and share in every currency—wisdom, success, energy, credit, care, time, and yes, money. These are all actions that originate from within, marked by compassion stretching from ourselves out to others.

Generosity not only sees and empathizes with a need, but it also moves to meet the need. It's not a mechanical transaction but a personal passion and a relational connection. Alan Gotthard, managing director of TriniD Capital told me, “Most people don't give because of strategy. They give because of relationship.””²

Mike Bickle teaches that in the Kingdom, we are to be **extravagant givers**. That's not just money, but also time, energy, love, etc.

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1 – Myles Munroe (2014) “The Power of Character in Leadership: How Values, Morals, Ethics, and Principles Affect Leaders” Whitaker House

2 – Steve Graves (15-2-2017) “Will Generosity Ever Rule the World?” Steve Graves Weekly blog

(www.stephenrgraves.com/articles/read/will-generosity-ever-rule-the-world)