

I. Partnership In Giving and Receiving (4:14-15; 1:7)

II. God's Giving and Receiving

- A. Background: **God Gives** Every Good Gift (Gen 1:1; James 1:17)
- B. The Focus: **God Gives** Grace in Jesus Christ (4:7, 13, 23)

III. The Minister and the Believer's Giving & Receiving

- a. The **Minister Gives** and the **Believer Receives** Gospel Preaching
- b. The **Believer Gives** and the **Minister Receives** Financial Support (1:18)
 - i. The Minister Deserves (Not Demands) His Wages (Gal 6:6; 1 Cor 9:14)
 - ii. The **Believer Gives** Generously from the Abundance Received (2 Cor 8:9)
 - iii. The **Believer Receives** the Assurance of Bearing Fruit (4:17; John 15:8)
 - iv. The **Believer Receives** the Promise of God's Provision (4:19; Luke 18:29-30; Matt 6:33)
- C. **We Give** and **God Receives** Fragrant Offerings, a Sacrifice of Praise (4:18, 20; Heb 13:15-16; Rom 11:36)

Quotations:

"Paul and his friends, you and your missionaries, belong to a three-way partnership that unites grateful Christians who give, gospel heralds who go, and the living God who graciously guides them both." —Dennis Johnson

"God loves first and gives first, and his love lavished on us through Christ evokes our reaction of love and generosity because we want others to taste this grace." —Dennis Johnson

"Alas for our indolence!—which appears in this, that while God invites us with so much kindness to the honor of priesthood, and even puts sacrifices in our hands, we nevertheless do not sacrifice to him, and those things which were set apart for sacred oblations we not only lay out for profane uses, but squander them wickedly upon the most polluted contaminations. For the altars, on which sacrifices from our resources ought to be presented, are the poor, and the servants of Christ. To the neglect of these some squander their resources on every kind of luxury, others upon the palate, others upon immodest attire, others upon magnificent dwellings." —John Calvin

Reflection Questions (for personal reflection and family conversation):

1. Do you see your relationship with the church primarily as one of receiving, or primarily giving, or both giving and receiving? What about your relationship with God?
2. What steps can you take to make your relationship with the church more of a partnership of giving and receiving?
3. Do you believe that God will meet your every need even when you give sacrificially? Have you ever given sacrificially only to see God meet your own needs in a special way?
4. What is the regular attitude of your heart as the offering is taken up each week? Is it one of thanks? Of fear that you might not make it through the week? Of confidence that God will meet your needs? Of reluctance to give? Of excitement to give to God and see what He will do with it?