

DISCIPLESHIP IN A CONSUMER CULTURE: INVESTING FOR THE GOOD OF OTHERS

Ben Deaver at Mosaic Church on January 29, 2023

2nd Corinthians 8:7-9

So what? We need a more compelling motivator than guilt to invest for the good of others.

Feel what? Joy in generosity for the sake of others!

VISION CASTING – *Grace feels good AND works!*

MINGLE QUESTIONS:

1. What singer or band would you be embarrassed to admit you listen to?
2. What's the craziest thing on your bucket list?

DISCIPLESHIP IN A CONSUMER CULTURE

America Has More Self-Storage Facilities Than McDonald's, Because Apparently We're All Hoarders

From the Huffington Post on April 21, 2015 (numbers updated TODAY)

- Turns out the only thing Americans may love more than Big Macs is hoarding.
- There are more self-storage facilities in America than there are McDonald's restaurants... There are 50,000 self-storage facilities in America at the end of 2022... With a combined storage capacity of 2.3 billion square feet... compared to a mere 13,438 McDonald's restaurants. There were 6,600 nationwide in 1984, when I was three years old.
- (For the record, there were just 15,841 Starbucks coffee shops in 2023, making the number of self-storage spots larger than McDonald's and Starbucks locations combined.)
- You've got to wonder if all that stuff could just fit in the garage. In fact, 65 percent of Americans who rent a storage unit have a garage, but they rent one anyway.
- *Oof*. This is the biggest case for spring cleaning we've ever seen.

PRAY

Discipleship in a Consumer Culture:

Investing for the Good Life AND Investing for the Good of Others!

Five Envelopes for Investing for the Good of Others

These six snagged one of the five envelopes Dave made available during his sermon last Sunday. Each envelope had an undisclosed amount of cash in it, the purpose of which was for them to become stewards of these resources for Kingdom purposes and then to report back. Would y'all like to hear the reports?

- Jurnee LeMoine, Misti LeMoine, Susanne Renberg, Mike and Lynn Salsbury, and Laura Wallace
- How much money was in your envelope?
- What did you do with it?
- Did you feel less, the same, or more joy after this stewardship activity?

The Macedonian Formula

2 Corinthians 8:1-4 And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about

The Macedonian Formula

the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches.

² In the midst of a very severe trial,

their overflowing joy

+ and their extreme poverty

= welled up in rich generosity.

³ For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴ they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people.

- The Macedonians are just over 360 miles away from the Corinthians. It would be like Paul coming here and saying, "Listen! Let me tell you about what's happening in St. Louis. C'mon Manhattan! You can do it!"

Key Passage: 2nd Corinthians 8:7-9

- I can't get away from this passage when preaching on money.
- We're in 2nd Corinthians chapters 8 and 9 with a focus on 8:7-9
- BIG IDEA: Not only does guilt and shame motivation not feel good, it also isn't very effective, especially in the long-term and to make maximum impact. Whereas, grace motivation feels great and IS VERY effective, especially in the long-term and to make maximum impact.
- Here are the last sermons I gave on 2nd Corinthians 8:
 - Reclaiming Generosity: Grace Takes You Further! in 2015 at New Hope Church
 - The Cross as the Giving Standard in 2017 at New Hope Church
 - The Heart of a Steward in 2017 at Summer Christian Challenge collegiate ministry
 - Motivation for Generosity last year at Tallgrass at The Well during March Gladne\$\$
- Let's open the Scriptures to the Apostle Paul's second letter to the church at Corinth where he challenges a wealthy church to follow through with good intentions to give generously.
- In fact, he compares the wealthy Corinthian church to an impoverished church who have become incredibly sacrificial givers to try to wake them up to the joy of giving.
- Paul shows us that the cross is the standard of giving, not Old Testament law.
- Grace takes us so much further than the Law ever can.
- The specific need at the time was a widespread famine that you can read about in Acts 11 (and Galatians 2:10).

⁷ But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

^{*8} *Don't forget to at least give the tithe, 10% of your income. Do I need to review the Old Testament with you? C'mon guys! Pull it together! (*This is NOT what Paul wrote.)*

⁸ I am *NOT* commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others.

THEN. NOW. NEXT.: A Biblical Vision of the Church, the Kingdom, and the Future by Dr. David McDonald

- “This is the problem with tithing. Despite its widespread advocacy within the contemporary church, tithing in the Bible was neither unilaterally applied nor enforced. For starters, there was more than one tithe (sometimes requiring as much as 23%, sometimes only being paid once in a lifetime like Abraham to Melchizadek), and we never see the New Testament church enforcing the tithe among the Gentile converts. When we advocate tithing today, we are introducing a new legislation that requires our people to give.” -p. 449
- “The old paradigm of hoping for more tithers—people who are adamant about giving the first 10% of their income every paycheck, every week for the rest of their lives—will ultimately bankrupt us. Why? Because tithing is ultimately rooted in obedience for its own sake. Most people cannot tithe (*or think they cannot tithe*). Most people will not tithe. Those who can and will, do so... sometimes. But when we tithe, at best we feel relief that we are finally in step with God’s demands. If we fail to tithe, we feel like we’ve incurred a debt that must be repaid before we can ever truly be free of our guilt.” -p. 449

- “From the standpoint of church administration, tithing is a flawed paradigm. It makes a good floor but a bad ceiling. Giving 10% is a good place to start for a serious follower of Jesus, but the real beauty lies in giving generously. In realizing that you’ve set aside a significant portion of your income to love and serve others. In this light, all that money becomes play money. It’s your investment capital in the Kingdom of God. You can give it wherever you like, redirecting the flow of God’s generosity, like a culvert in a river. You can place it wherever you wish, so long as you place it back within the hands of the Lord. It’s exciting. It’s liberating.” -p. 450
 - We completely welcome those who don’t consider themselves a “serious” follower of Jesus or even a follower of Jesus at all. However, our goal for people is that you will increasingly become more like Jesus in your character over time, even if painstakingly slowly. That is what discipleship is, becoming more and more like Jesus.
 - Graduated giving plan—the more you make the higher percentage you give
 - Recent friend who invited Maris and I to invest in them and their company with perpetual access to the future properties.

⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

Gospel Circles

- Gospel—FOR YOU SAKE HE BECAME POOR. Christ died for our sins!
- Gospel Truths—so that you through his poverty might become rich
- Gospel Living/Conduct/Behavior—excel in this grace of giving

Flywheel analogy – A flywheel is a heavy revolving wheel in a machine that is used to increase the machine's momentum and thereby provide greater stability or a reserve of available power during interruptions in the delivery of power to the machine.

Arc Reactor analogy

Once you get grace, there's no limit to the sacrificial generosity you're capable of.

Grace over Shame

Why is grace so much more effective than shame?

- **Titus 2:11-14** ¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹² It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.
 - We're not talking about cheap grace or easy believism.
- "If you need anything, anything, don't hesitate to ask."
- Vs. Paying taxes

THEN. NOW. NEXT. by Dr. David McDonald

"Thus, the Kingdom of God, when planted within us, bursts forth in abundance. It is the power that multiplied the loaves and the fishes; that transformed the water into wine; that perpetuated the widow's daily oil and flour. Consider that in the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000, there were leftovers. In the story of Mary anointing Jesus' feet with perfume,

the value of that offering was a years' wages. What else is that, if not extravagant? What does that tell us about God? About his riches? About his proclivity for abundance?" -p. 444

- Proclivity means propensity or penchant or bias or leaning or inclination.
- God has a bias towards abundance.
- **Ephesians 1:7-8a** ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ^{8a} that he lavished on us.
- I remember Judy and Paxton LeMoine taking Maris and me to Harry's several New Year's Eves before it closed. Harry's was the nicest restaurant in town. And for some reason, really no reason but their abundant generosity, they told us to get whatever we wanted. They pushed me to order a cocktail and appetizer and not look at the menu price. This produced some anxiety within me as those of you who know me well might imagine. In that moment, they were discipling me in the way of lavished grace. I had a similar feeling this past Friday when Paxton took me out for my annual birthday lunch with him. We went to Taco Lucha and I went for the big item, the Stacked Enchiladas, and experienced abundant generosity.
- Generosity begets generosity! Like sleep begets sleep or on the flip side, parents know this, sleeplessness begets sleeplessness. Miserliness begets miserliness.

Cool, grace, got it! So, exactly how much do I give? Let's get practical.

NEXT STEPS

1. Give sacrificially
2. Give intentionally
3. Give cheerfully

1. Give sacrificially!

Give according to your means and beyond your means. This is what sacrificial giving means!

2 Corinthians 8:3-4 ³ For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴ they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people.

God calls on us to sacrifice what we do have. He doesn't expect us to give something we don't have.

- Our standard of living has gone up but our standard of giving has gone down. That ain't cool!
- Are you more concerned with your standard of giving or your standard of living? How much do you need? How much do I need? Really?
- If a 10% tithe was the gold standard of giving then the application point today would be easy. If you're already giving at that level then you feel good about yourself and go home unchanged. If you're not giving anything at all and you can't hit the 10% gold standard you probably go home crushed and despairing and still unchanged.
- Giving according to your means suggests a graduated tithe would be appropriate. Why not make a plan as a family to increase your

percentage of giving as your wealth grows while keeping your standard of living relatively stable?

- What kind of givers are we raising our kids to become?

Illus: Family of four making \$50,000 giving 10% lives off of \$45,000. Same family making \$100,000 giving 10% lives off of \$90,000. Same family could live off of \$50,000 by giving 50%. Wouldn't that be cool?

Jesus gave sacrificially!

2. Give intentionally! Impulse giving is weak.

2 Corinthians 9:5-7 ⁵ So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to visit you in advance and finish the arrangements for the generous gift you had promised. Then it will be ready as a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given. ⁶ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ 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.

- Spontaneous and sporadic go hand in hand...neither is good.
- **Illus:** Did you get your contribution statement in the mail? Did it reflect your intentions to give or did your intentions not quite materialize as you had hoped?

1 Corinthians 16:1-3 ¹ Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. ² On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. ³ Then, when I arrive, I will give letters

of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem.

- Organization and orderly arrangements and deliberate intentionality lead to success and reduced pressure in the local church. It also keeps things above board.
- **My story:** First time I read Randy Alcorn's book *Money, Possessions, and Eternity* it made sense to me that I was a rich American and that the tithe is just training wheels and if I want to pick a number to tithe on then I should just go ahead and calculate all income and financial benefit we receive.
 - We've added supporting two children monthly through Compassion International to our giving. We had Kate pick a friend to support a few years ago and this past year we had Maddox pick a friend to support. Kate picked Minerva and Maddox picked James.
 - Maris and I need to revisit this together. Sound good, Maris?

THEN. NOW. NEXT. by Dr. David McDonald

"In the same way that we are meant to be generous with our finances, we are also meant to be generous with our homes, our churches, and with Christ himself. We ought to be sharing Christ with everyone; and by this I don't intend for us to perform our prepared spiels about sin and redemption, but that we would invite others to share the life of Christ, the light of Christ, and the joy of following Jesus." -p. 450

- There are times to articulate the Good News of the Gospel, which is a redundancy. I just said there are times to communicate with words the Good News of the Good News.
- Stewarding our resources—Team discussions about how best to use our resources
 - Do we do WiFi upgrade or use a different service?

- Do we sign the three-year lease or look elsewhere?
- How do we use our Gathering Space and the rest of these rooms for Kingdom purpose throughout the week?

Mosaic Church

- Specific vision casting for our budget potential
- Envelope Activity
- Outreach Team
 - Our location
 - Orphan Helpers
 - Helping International Students
 - Neighboring Fund
 - Adoption Fund

Jesus gave intentionally!

3. Give cheerfully!

2 Corinthians 9:5-7 ⁵ So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready as a willing gift, **not as an exaction.** ⁶ The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, **not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.**

- God loves us all, of course. That's why He sent His Son. But His heart is happy when you grow to become a cheerful giver. That's the direction that sacrificial and deliberate giving takes you. Towards cheerful giving!

- *Does the cheerfulness come before or after you give?* I think most assume that it should be before...but I'm not so sure. Perhaps the cheerfulness comes as you discipline yourself towards sacrificial generosity in light of the cross. *What do you do if you're not a cheerful giver? Should I not give?* NO! Remember, the crutch of duty can be helpful until the desire comes. Paul had to give these exhortations because they weren't cheerful enough yet. Don't hide behind this one. Well, I'm just not excited to give so I guess it would be unbiblical for me to take a step towards giving. C'mon. Serious?
- *How do you move from reluctant giving to cheerful giving?*
- **Matthew 6:21** Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
- Jesus' words in Acts 20:35, "It is more blessed/happy to give than to receive!"

Jesus gave cheerfully...for the joy set before Him!

INVITE THE WORSHIP TEAM UP

THEN. NOW. NEXT. by Dr. David McDonald

"The church of the future will be filled with Christians who understand their role as evangelists. They will recognize that the good news is too good to keep secret, and will spread the message of Christ and his church throughout their networks. In our culture, ironically, it is actually consumers who tend to make the best evangelists." -p. 450

NO SLIDE—"For example, in his article 'Making Freemium Work,' management guru Vineet Kumar says 'the primary value of a Free user is in their ability to generate referrals.' Essentially, Kumar is suggesting companies give away a portion of their product in exchange for the natural outpouring of 'evangelism' that results." -p. 450

- Freely we've been given, now freely let's give!

- I've been accused of being an evangelist of my passions. Once I've experienced something and I think it's awesome, you're gonna hear about it...and possibly be curious to try it for yourself. And I want you to too. And, I want you to share with me what you've experienced that YOU think is awesome. I'll probably be curious and maybe I'll try it too.
 - Konza Strength, Chapter 5 Yoga, any number of restaurants and coffee shops and breweries
 - There are a few newer folks to our church who seem excited about Mosaic and who are eager to figure out how do not keep this...this right here...a secret.
- "...the church of the future will be generous, regardless of the miserliness of her beneficiaries. We will be givers, regardless of what the world gives back. When we give generously and sacrificially, we exorcise our bitterness. Selfishness is septic, but generosity is the algorithm of joy." -p. 446

Let's invest for the good of others AND for the good life.

LET'S PRAY.

SING: Vision of Your Love

I love You, God, and all my life is for you now.

Chopping Block:

Ideas:

- Two Debtors Parable
- Experience Grace
- Economy of Grace
- Willingness and ability to receive love/grace/gifts
- Jesus question, "Who are my mother, brother, and sister?"
 - **Matthew 12:46-50** ⁴⁶While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to him. ⁴⁷Someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you." ⁴⁸He replied to him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" ⁴⁹Pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. ⁵⁰For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."
 - This is a Family business. Jesus is our Older Brother, who is the Heir, and we are co-heirs with Him! Stewardship, rather than ownership, is the mentality within the Family business.
- Trust Jesus to build our portfolio AND do good in the world!
- The Unbaptized Arm
- Mammon
 - Google: wealth regarded as an evil influence or false object of worship and devotion. It was taken by medieval writers as the name of the devil of covetousness, and revived in this sense by Milton. "others have forsaken Mammon in search of something on a more spiritual plane"
 - WIKIPEDIA: Mammon /'mæmən/ in the New Testament of the Bible is commonly thought to mean money, material wealth, or any entity that promises wealth, and is associated with the greedy pursuit of gain. The Gospel of Matthew and the Gospel of Luke both quote Jesus using the word in a phrase often rendered in English as "You cannot serve both God and mammon."
 1. In the Middle Ages, it was often personified and sometimes included in the seven princes of Hell. Mammon in Hebrew (מָמוֹן) means "money". The word was adopted to modern Hebrew to mean wealth.
 2. Christians began to use "mammon" as a pejorative, a term that was used to describe gluttony, excessive materialism, greed, and unjust worldly gain.
 - Strong's Greek: 3126
 1. Original Word: μαμωνᾶς
 2. Transliteration: mamónas
 3. Definition: riches
 4. Usage: (Aramaic), riches, money, possessions, property.

5. *mammōnás* – a Semitic term for "the treasure a person trusts in" (J. Thayer) who is transliterated as "*mammon*."
 6. *mammōnás* is probably an *Aramaic* term, related to the Hebrew term *'aman* ("to trust," J. Thayer).
 7. 4 Occurrences: Matthew 6:24; Luke 16:9, 11, 13
 8. See also: Isaiah 33:6; Psalm 36:3
- Corban—Strong's Greek: 2878
 - Original Word: κορβᾶν
 - Transliteration: korban
 - Definition: an offering
 - Usage: a gift, offering, anything consecrated to God.
 - *Corban*; properly, a gift (offering) dedicated to God, and *misused* by the Jews as a way to *evade* their rightful duty to God to care for aged parents (etc.).
 - 2 Occurrences: Matthew 27:6; Mark 7:11

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- "We will never have sufficient resources to fund our ideas. Ever. Especially not among our wildest and most passionate innovators. The people on the fringes will always be unknown and therefore under-resourced." -p. 435
 - Who has some wild ideas for the Kingdom? For our church?
- "What's stopping you from getting started on your next great idea serving God?" -p. 436
- "The church has an often-puzzling attitude toward wealth. There are those who seek to exploit the wealthy for Kingdom purposes, always asking for more and more money to assist 'the Lord's work.' There are those who perceive the rich to be 'blessed' by God, and their riches are the substantiation of their righteousness. There are also those who blast the rich for their wealth, imagining that it represents greed or materialism or corruption. But the church of the future will perceive wealthy people as, first of all, people. We will love and serve them just as we do the poor and all those in between." -p. 439
 - We are a mosaic.
- "The rich and the poor will first come together in fellowship, across the table, to pray and learn and grow in the Lord Jesus. From that common cause, it may very well be that those with greater means respond to the prompting of the Holy Spirit; but—and this is crucial—the church of the future will no longer dictate the rules of engagement. We will not guilt the rich. We will not excuse the poor. We will not glamorize wealth. We will not fetishize poverty. We will not be predators of privilege. We will not be enablers of ease." -p. 439
 - Fetishize means to have an odd obsession with.
 - This is one of the ways the Lord's Supper is powerful. The ground is level at the foot of the cross and there's room for everyone at the table.

- This is very unlike exclusive clubs like country clubs or community groups that are secretive and by invitation only.
- “How can you ‘set a table’ for both the haves and have-nots in your life?” -p. 441
- “Thus, the Kingdom of God, when planted within us, bursts forth in abundance. It is the power that multiplied the loaves and the fishes; that transformed the water into wine; that perpetuated the widow’s daily oil and flour. Consider that in the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000, there were leftovers. In the story of Mary anointing Jesus’ feet with perfume, the value of that offering was a years’ wages. What else is that, if not extravagant? What does that tell us about God? About his riches? About his proclivity for abundance?” -p. 444
- “...every quarter we gave each department \$1,000 to invest in healing our community. Sometimes our people did service projects like provide free oil changes or renovate bathrooms or replace the heating and cooling systems of people outside the church; other times our people did educational projects like partnering with local art schools and literacy foundations to provide extra-curricular learning environments.” -p. 445
 - This practice is somewhat similar how we use our Neighboring/Benevolence Fund. We’ll come alongside your neighboring initiative at \$50 and possibly more.
 - We just did the activity of entrusting funds to individuals in our church to steward.
 - Perhaps we could infuse funds into our Groups and see how you multiply the resources for the good of your neighborhoods.
- “...the church of the future will be generous, regardless of the miserliness of her beneficiaries. We will be givers, regardless of what the world gives back. When we give generously and sacrificially, we exorcise our bitterness. Selfishness is septic, but generosity is the algorithm of joy.” -p. 446
- “How can you reduce, reuse, and recycle your resources to better honor God?” -p. 446
- “There is a difference between generosity and obligation. Obligations rob us of our joy, whereas generous offerings and contributions enhance it.” -p. 449
 - I felt obligated to give you this birthday gift. Hope you like it! Just don’t bug me for more.
- “This is the problem with tithing. Despite its widespread advocacy within the contemporary church, tithing in the Bible was neither unilaterally applied nor enforced. For starters, there was more than one tithe (sometimes requiring as much as 23%, sometimes only being paid once in a lifetime like Abraham to Melchizadek), and we never see the New Testament church enforcing the tithe among the Gentile converts. When we advocate tithing today, we are introducing a new legislation that requires our people to give.” -p. 449
- “The old paradigm of hoping for more tithers—people who are adamant about giving the first 10% of their income every paycheck, every week for the rest of their lives—will ultimately bankrupt us. Why? Because tithing is ultimately rooted in obedience for its own sake. Most people cannot tithe (*or think they cannot tithe*). Most people will not tithe. Those who can and will, do so... sometimes. But when we tithe, at best we feel relief that we are finally in

step with God's demands. If we fail to tithe, we feel like we've incurred a debt that must be repaid before we can ever truly be free of our guilt." -p. 449

- My birthday and Christmas gift investment idea—Give a lump sum to someone once early in the relationship and calculate the value over their lifetime if they invest it properly adjusting for foreseeable inflation. Then you never HAVE TO give them a gift again! Obligation is met.
- Randy Alcorn calls tithing the "training wheels" of giving and suggests that if you want to be sure you're not being legalistic—adhering to an arbitrary 10% to make yourself feel right with God, others, and yourself—then start with 11% or 12%.
- "From the standpoint of church administration, tithing is a flawed paradigm. It makes a good floor but a bad ceiling. Giving 10% is a good place to start for a serious follower of Jesus, but the real beauty lies in giving generously. In realizing that you've set aside a significant portion of your income to love and serve others. In this light, all that money becomes play money. It's your investment capital in the Kingdom of God. You can give it wherever you like, redirecting the flow of God's generosity, like a culvert in a river. You can place it wherever you wish, so long as you place it back within the hands of the Lord. It's exciting. It's liberating." -p. 450
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- "In the same way that we are meant to be generous with our finances, we are also meant to be generous with our homes, our churches, and with Christ himself. We ought to be sharing Christ with everyone; and by this I don't intend for us to perform our prepared spiels about sin and redemption, but that we would invite others to share the life of Christ, the light of Christ, and the joy of following Jesus. " -p. 450
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spread the message of Christ and his church throughout their networks. In our culture, ironically, it is actually consumers who tend to make the best evangelists. For example, in his article 'Making Freemium Work,' management guru Vineet Kumar says 'the primary value of a Free user is in their ability to generate referrals.' Essentially, Kumar is suggesting companies give away a portion of their product in exchange for the natural outpouring of 'evangelism' that results." -p. 450

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 1. Konza Strength
 2. Chapter 5 Yoga
 3. Any number of restaurants and coffee shops and breweries
- There are a few newer folks to our church who seem excited about Mosaic and who are eager to figure out how do not keep this...this right here...a secret.
- "Could there be a better metaphor for all we've received than to consider Christians 'Freemium users' of God's grace, God's gifts, and God's cooperative plan to heal the world? We share in something we cannot afford, to which we have no earned right, and from which we benefit immensely. The church of the future will find new ways to celebrate this and to invite others into this Freemium celebration, also. " -p. 451
- "This will require something on the part of our leaders and pastors. Adapting Chris Anderson's FREE principles, here are four ideas for how to make this work:
 - Build church community around free information and advice on helpful topics ranging from marriage and family advice, to biblical theology, to money management, and how to be happy and have fun.
 - Invite the church community into the process of designing products that people want, and return the favor by making the products free in raw form.
 - Let those with more money than time / skill / risk-tolerance buy the more polished version of those products (that may turn out to be almost everyone).
 - Do it again and again, leveraging profits to both fund future innovation and fixed church expenses. " -p. 451
- "How will you cultivate more generosity with both your finances and your faith? " -p. 451
- "To love is to will the good of another." -Thomas Aquinas