

Living generously is genius because . . .

1. It blesses others.
2. It meets needs.
3. It honors God.
4. It produces joy.
5. It results in eternal rewards.
6. It's the antidote to greed.
7. It reveals our true lordship.

If generous living is so genius, why do so few people live generously?

1. The Deceptive Power of Riches – Mark 4:18-19
2. The Luring Promises of Mammon Worship – Luke 16:13
3. Temporal Myopia – Luke 12:13-21

So, how can we win this insidious battle with \_\_\_\_\_ in order to develop a lasting lifestyle of generosity?

## How to Beat Generosity's Biggest Competitor

- Refuse to Chase the Wind - Ecclesiastes 5:10-15 (NIV)\*
  - *"Whoever loves money never has money enough;. . ."* (v. 10)
  - *". . . whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income."* (v. 10)
  - *"As goods increase, so do those who consume them."* (v. 11)
  - *"And what benefit are they to the owner except to feast his eyes on them?"*  
(v. 11)
  - *"The sleep of a laborer is sweet, whether he eats little or much, but the abundance of a rich man permits him no sleep."* (v. 12)
  - *"I have seen a grievous evil under the sun: wealth hoarded to the harm of its owner, . . ."* (v. 13)
  - *". . .or wealth lost through some misfortune,. . ."* (v. 14)
  - *"Naked a man comes from his mother's womb, and as he comes, so he departs. He takes nothing from his labor that he can carry in his hand."*  
(v. 15)



### Generosity Breakthrough Concept #4

- Heaven is my home! Earth is merely my hotel room!
  - We're pilgrims, strangers, and aliens on earth. (Heb 11:13)
  - We're ambassadors representing our true country. (2 Cor 5:20)
  - Our citizenship is in heaven. (Phil 3:20)
  - We're citizens of a better country – a heavenly one. (Heb 11:15-17)

### Personal Application/Discussion Questions

1. Why is it crucial that we realize that we are in a battle over the affections of our hearts?
2. How might a careful study of heaven help you develop an eternal perspective?
3. What must happen in your life and in your priorities to establish generosity as a lifestyle commitment?
4. What help might you need in taking those steps of obedience?