



New International Version is used for questions

1. Pastor Rick said that generosity is something that every Christian should demonstrate. What do you think of when you think of being generous? Read 2 Corinthians 9:7. What characteristics does this say that a person who is generous should have? What should we do if we do not have those characteristics?
2. Pastor Rick said that generosity goes far beyond our finances, what are other ways we can be generous to others?
3. Pastor Rick said that we should be sacrificial in our generosity. What are some ways we can be sacrificial with the areas mentioned in question 2?
4. What is materialism? Do you think we are materialistic as a society in America? What are the three pitfalls of materialism that Pastor Rick talked about? Read Luke 12:16-21. What characteristics of materialism did the person in this story exhibit?
5. Read Matthew 6:24-33. Do you think that being materialistic is a form of idolatry? What is idolatry? What does this passage suggest might be the cause of our materialism? What does it say is the solution?
6. Read Ephesians 5:1,2. How is being generous, being a giving person, make us like Christ? Can a person say they love God and others if they are unwilling to be generous? How did Pastor Rick word this in his sermon?
7. What is one way you can begin to be generous tomorrow?

generous but to give to God "unwillingly". If we are not willing to be generous with what we have, we are still obligated to give because God commands it, but we need to realize that God's promise to bless our generosity is only promised to those who do it with a willing heart. God is more concerned with why we do what we do than what we do. Generosity is not for God's benefit, it is for our benefit and how it changes us.

2. We should be generous with our time, our talents and abilities, how we speak to others, our encouragement, our loyalty, and our wisdom.
3. How can you be generous with your time? With your words? With your wisdom? Your abilities? We can use all of these to serve other people.
4. Materialism is the belief that the only thing that exists and is real are the things of this material world, the purpose of life is to spend all of your time living for the here and now, whatever brings you pleasure in this life. The three pitfalls are: A. If my treasure is protecting my stuff, you become fearful. B. If my treasure is getting more stuff, you become restless and C. If my treasure is never having enough stuff, you become discontent because you never think you have enough.
5. Idolatry is whenever something in your life is more important to you than God, so materialism is idolatry because getting and having stuff is more important to you. The suggestion is that our fear of not having enough of what we need is at the heart of materialism so the answer is to trust in God to provide for our needs and put seeking Him as the most important thing in our lives. Have the right priorities in life.
6. Christ was generous to us, he gave his life to die for our sins so that we could have eternal life. A person who says they love God but are not generous is just lying to themselves because you cannot be like Christ without being a person willing to give whatever you have to God to be used to serve others. Pastor Rick said that you can give without loving but you cannot love without giving.