

# A Generous Ownership

Long Beach Alliance Church • January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**INSTRUCT THEM TO DO GOOD, TO  
BE RICH IN GOOD WORKS, TO BE  
GENEROUS AND READY TO SHARE,  
STORING UP FOR THEMSELVES  
THE TREASURE OF A GOOD  
FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE,  
SO THAT THEY MAY TAKE HOLD OF  
THAT WHICH IS LIFE INDEED.**

**~ 1<sup>ST</sup> TIMOTHY 6: 18-19 (NASB)**

## **1) The Constitution Of Discipleship**

- A) In previous weeks, we have been studying basic characteristics for every follower of Jesus Christ. These characteristics represent the "marks of Christ's disciples:"
- i) **Mercy.** Followers of Jesus have faith in Christ (content, trust, perseverance) by receiving the grace of God (free gift), through an ongoing relationship with Jesus.
  - ii) **Transformation.** Followers of Jesus show a submission and relationship to God through reading, studying, and personal transformation through His Word (the Bible).
  - iii) **Unity.** Followers of Jesus live in unity with one another, building His local and global church through groups and personal relationships.
  - iv) **Service.** Followers of Jesus are called to serve one another from grateful and responsive souls which recognize God's great gifts and serve one another in the knowledge we are actually serving Christ Himself.

## 2) Generous Ownership

- A) Whether it was Christ's restorative comments to Peter (John 21) or the many exhortations to live as disciples of Jesus in the Newer Testament (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy), the overarching message is clear... **Own the message and the mission!**
- B) The miracle of God's gifts (mercy, transformation, unity, service, and generous ownership) are that they could all be accomplished perfectly without our involvement by God, **but He chooses us anyway** (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:25).
- C) In God's generous inclusion of us in the mission of His church, we are also called to **be generous** in our response to God's people and His church (1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 6:17-19).
- D) This kind of generosity **requires adjusting our lives to God's schedule, to God's economy, and to God's priorities**. Clearly, being "generous and ready to share" (6:18) means that we give of ourselves as though everything in the church depends on our own involvement, while recognizing everything in the church depends on God.
- E) God supplies the church with gifts and talents (through individuals and through groups) to be **generously shared** (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:14-31).
- F) God supplies everyone in the church with resources for investing in Christ's church, locally and around the world. Again, owning the ministry and investing in the vision of what God is doing (glocally) is a **response of generosity which comes from a great heart, not from great wealth** (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 8:1-6). **Don't just sit there! RESPOND!**