



dc 88.¹²³— meditation

See that ye love one another; cease to be covetous; learn to impart one to another as the gospel requires.

When trying to take the measure of our spiritual health, we are fond of examining such conveniently easy indicators as consistent scripture reading, daily prayer, or the regularity of our FHEs. I have often said, and that for decades, that the measurement most indicative of our spirituality is to be found in our pockets and purses. It is found in our attitude toward our material assets, how we use them, and how we impart them.

We feel, justifiably, that the degree to which we love is also a strong indicator of our spiritual progress. But we forget, or choose to ignore, the tight connection that passages such as today's establish between love, our attitudes toward the material assets of others, and the manner in which we impart our material assets to others. "When [we] look at others with their lands and gold,"¹ and envy them, become dissatisfied with what we have, and covet their material assets and success that we imagine those assets to represent, we give evidence to a lack of love. For the absence of covetousness and the Christ-like impartation of our material resources is unbreakably bound up with true love of others.

What is the nature of a "Christ-like" or gospel-centered attitude toward personal assets and the impartation of the same? We can mention a few. Christ considered every asset he possessed to be of worth only insofar as it could be used for the benefit of others. Christ imparted his assets to others without consideration as to how they arrived at their need. He imparted his assets without demanding as a prerequisite to know that they would make the maximal use of it. He was always pleased at others' achievements and successes as long as they were acquired through just and holy conduct. Yes, Jesus offered each of us his maximum help at a time when we were least worthy of it and long before it could be ascertained what we would do with it. "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while were yet sinners, Christ died for us."²

If we would be truly Christ-like, seek to imitate him, and come to be comfortable in his presence—i.e., be sanctified—we must look anew at the assets we have, including the material, and do with them as Jesus did with his.

Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

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¹ Hymn #241

² Romans 5.⁸