

Life Group Notes

Sunday 16 September 2018

Speaker: Sean Green

Series: Purpose, Culture, Vision

Title: Purpose, Culture, Vision

This is the start of a 4 week mini-series reminding us of the Purpose, Culture and Vision here at RFC.

Our Purpose: *'To be a growing, Jesus centred community; bringing God's kingdom to Reading and beyond'*. We believe we are called to be growing in Christ-likeness, size and influence. We want to be Jesus centred, not hobby centred, child centred, career, history, hurt or dream centred. We want to play our part in meeting the needs of our town and joyfully share our time, talents and treasures to further God's kingdom beyond our horizon.

Our Culture - Generous

Generosity is giving more of something than is expected. We want to follow Jesus' example of generosity because it has everything to do with our sense of identity. Once we were spiritual orphans but now we're adopted into God's household. Now, we are stewards of the vast resources of heaven which can never be exhausted.

Generosity is like a Litmus test showing much the Gospel has penetrated our heart and mind. You can be generous but not understand the Gospel, but you can't understand the Gospel and not be generous. Generosity is like a test paper strip that gets dipped into your heart to see if it reads blue for low generosity or red for high. If you have loved much, you love much; If you have been forgiven much, you forgive much; If you have been given much, you give much.

Children of God's household are to be generous with His family resources: *The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.* Prv 11v25. God's people prosper when they are generous.

Charles Bridges who died 1869, put it like this: *Have faith in God. Laying out for him will be laying up for ourselves. This will either be in the enlargement of earthly blessings, or in a satisfying enjoyment of a more limited portion and in time a blissful reception into 'everlasting habitations'.*

Jesus said: *Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.* Luke 6v38

Financial Generosity is a Gospel issue; it demonstrates we have pulled down and demolished the Idol of the 'love of money' or 'trust in money'. It demonstrates your trust and reliance that God is your providing source.

Remember this—*a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop.* 1 Cor 9v6

Suggested questions:

#1 Orphan or Steward: which are you?

#2 It is good to want to prosper but how do you guard against it becoming your idol?

3 Read 2Cor 6-11: What is the harvest of generosity for?