Grace Baptist Church/ Crossroads International Church/ CIC again Dr. Rick Griffith

16 May 1999/ 7 Dec 2008/ 5 May 2013 Message #24 of 24

NIV 30 Minutes

**Others-Centered Christianity**

Title

***1 Corinthians 16***

**Topic:** Ministry

**Subject:** Advance the gospel

**Complement:** by giving and teamwork

**Purpose:** The listeners will be encouraged to press on during the transition stage of the latter half of 1999 by being others-centered.

**Attribute:** We worship our relational God

# Introduction

### [Transitions are a normal part of life.]

#### I wonder how many of you feel like you are going through a transition in your life? Raise your hand.

Transitions

#### One discovery that hit me some years back was that I seemed to be saying, “I’m going through a transition” but also saying this quite a bit. Then one day it struck me that I said this all the time! Friends, *life* is a transition!

### Transitions also happen at Crossroads.

#### Remember that first picture taken of our church? No, most of you don’t—this was over 6 years ago! Of the 17 people at that first planning meeting, the only ones left are Susan and me!

1st Picture

#### The church has had its ups-and-downs over the years, hitting the lowest point in July 2012. But be encouraged—we are now twice the size since then—and the Lord has been good to see us restore many ministries—Andrew has rebuilt the website, sermons are now back up but this time with their notes and PPT, we now have two worship teams under two leaders, and ministries now to children, youth, men, women, and we anticipate our home group multiplying in August. I also know of 17 of us in weekly accountability groups to ask hard questions, including making sure we are reading three chapters of the Bible daily and praying for the lost. We are in the place where we will see Lewis transition off his terms as elder as we will be electing new elders in a few months. God is working amidst the transitions!

Home group

Men

Women

Homepage

9 members

Sermon

Elders

LTG 3 slides

Dinners

Graph

#### Challenges remain and the transition to get a full-time pastor-teacher to replace me still exists—but even after God provides a full-time pastor-teacher, other transitions will follow!

### Unfortunately, transitions often turn us inward.

Inward

#### We get busy taking care of our business and forget about others.

#### The long list of projects and “to-dos” often move people to the bottom of the list.

#### We knew when we started Crossroads that it would be hard to keep an outward focus—especially as a new church. Giving away 20% to missions has helped us realize it’s not about us, but we still need an “others-centered Christianity.”

### In 1 Corinthians 16 Paul finished his letter with some great advice in their transition to keep others the focus—as they had their own selfish parties (explain).

Parties at Corinth

### Corinth was a church in transition, just like us. So in his conclusion as Paul wrote to them from Ephesus, he brought up this question: How could they advance the gospel until he saw them again? This is the issue noted in your bulletin outline…

Map

### So for us the question is this: What should *you* do to advance the gospel so you can have an “others-centered Christianity”?

Subject

### Subject: Here are some of Paul’s tips on how to advance the gospel during transition. The first bit of advice is to…

# I. *Give* to needy saints (1-4).

MP

#  [Help less privileged believers financially first.]

Family First

## The Corinthians were to advance the gospel by giving to needy Jerusalem saints (1-4).

Map

### The Jerusalem church was the mother church but also the poorer church. Probably this was due to the persecution against the Jewish Christians, which caused many of them to lose their jobs. Paul wrote from Ephesus and would soon pass through Macedonia to collect the Corinthian offering to pass to the needy saints in Jerusalem.

### Remember that the Corinthians were “me centered”—so much so that they were taking one another to court, condoning a man who’s sleeping with his step-mother, and really messing up in using spiritual gifts simply for their personal edification.

Probs

(So would you expect Paul to tell a church like this to make sure they kept giving as a high priority? Yes, he wanted to assure that they had an outward focus, and…)

## Here we find four of God’s commands on giving:

Giving commands

### Give *to believers in need* (1).

• Need

#### Churches in transition typically drop in their giving—it’s happened in a number of churches that have given to me as their missionary over the years.

##### We can be tempted in this arena, don’t you think?

##### Don’t say, “Whoa, we can’t increase giving in this world economic scene!”

#### In our Crossroads transition how are we supporting the advance of the gospel?

Our Mission

##### We continue to support ministries in many countries like Mongolia, India, and Myanmar. People like Budmaa—EE director for Mongolia––were a key part of starting CIC in 2006 with his small sons, now teenagers!

Country %

Budmaa

##### In fact, some of gifts went to Budmaa in Mongolia so he can expand his ministry to Inner Mongolia in China—as well as take care of the burial of his mother last Wednesday.

Inner Mongolia

### Give *regularly* (2a). [Read all of verse 2.]

• Regularly

#### Offerings should be collected each Sunday so that the church would have sufficient funds before Paul arrived.

#### In the case of saving our offerings, note that the intent here, is, of course, saving to invest in God’s work—not saving to save for savings sake or security.

Black

#### Some here give once a month––that’s not every Sunday, but it still is regular.

#### My own personal conviction is to give something every time the bag passes. Even if I have completed my committed amount before the Lord, I try to still put something in the bag as a reminder of all I owe the Lord.

(So Paul’s point is to give to needy believers and to do it regularly. Also…)

• Propor-tionately

### Give proportionately (2b).

#### Notice that Paul doesn’t specify an amount—like the tithe.

##### If the gift should be “in keeping with his income” then what about the tithe?

Tithe cartoon

##### Yes, the NT doesn’t demand tithing but for some of us a tithe is way too low.

Tithe?

###### One study showed that households with incomes of US$10,000 give away 2.8% but those earning US$50,000-$100,000 give away 1.5%. GIVING lowest

• 1.5%

2.8%

###### A man once came to his pastor for counseling. He felt convicted that he had not been faithful in giving God from the generous $1000 a week salary he was making. The man explained, “I had no problem thanking God and giving Him a liberal offering when I was making just $50 a week. Please pray for me.” The pastor then prayed, “Father, bring this man back to a $50 a week salary so that he can get back into your will.” GIVING proportional

$1000 or $50?

#### Another question comes up when people convinced of tithing ask, “Is the tithe *before* your required deductions or after?” The answer? It depends on whether you want God to bless you based on the net or bless you based on the gross!

• Net?

Blessing

#### I wonder if the Lord is ever going to ask us how much we gave. I’m convinced He will be more concerned with how much we spent on ourselves.

### Give *responsibly* (3-4).

• Respon-sibly

#### The money should be brought to Jerusalem by trustworthy men (3).

Black

##### Why did Paul ask others to take the money to Jerusalem and not do it himself?

##### This may have been because one church already had put Paul’s motives into question—the Thessalonians.

#### We also need to act responsibly.

PTI

11 slides

##### Our mission practice is not to give to those ministries that we don’t know or where we won’t have any follow-up. So we recently gave $3000 to PTI for solar electricity in Manipur headed by Athan.

##### Giving to those we know is a good policy, but even better is for us to get out there and visit these potential ministries personally. For example, Lewis and I will both travel to Manipur for ministry and follow-up of Athan.

Black

(In any case, the big picture here is that we must press on with an “others-centered mindset” during our transitions—and a key way to do this is to keep giving to those less blessed than us. What is another of Paul’s tips on how to advance the gospel? The rest of the chapter basically says this…)

# II. Minister as a *team*.

MP

 [Teamwork is vital to advancing the gospel when in transition.]

## Show teamwork with your ***leaders*** (5-18).

Unity

### Assist leaders financially (5-9).

#### The Corinthians could financially assist Paul after more ministry in Ephesus, a summer preaching tour in Macedonia, and an extended visit to Corinth.

• Finances

#### CIC has really grown in this area from our early days when most leaders served for free. On behalf of those of us who are paid, I want to say a hearty thank you for your support! In my case, it helps me get my youngest son through university.

### Teamwork is really important during difficult times—notice in verse 9 how Paul links effective ministry with opposition. God often does His greatest work in tough times.

### Encourage your leaders (10-11).

• Encourage

#### This church could encourage Timothy with compassion if he makes it to the church. Why these cautions regarding Timothy? Other texts also reveal him to be a timid leader. Remember “Timid-thee”?

#### We gotta encourage one another more here—leaders and all.

### Recognize the calling of your leaders (12).

• Recognize

#### Here Paul didn’t insist on his own opinion of what he thought Apollos should do. The Corinthians should understand that Apollos felt he should stay in Ephesus despite Paul’s strong urging to accompany the letter.

#### I must say that you all have done a great job of affirming me in my main calling as seminary professor. You are definitely *not* “the complaining lot.”

(So verses 5-18 encourage teamwork with your leaders. Now in the final verses he says to…)

## Show teamwork within ***yourselves*** (19-24)

Yourselves

### Paul showed his people-priority by sending greetings from those with him in Ephesus (19-20).

#### Aquila and Priscilla had ministered in Corinth, so it was appropriate to bring greetings from them.

#### But should *we* greet each other with a holy kiss? After all, it is commanded!

##### I often preach in Hawaii, where this is taken literally. I must admit, it’s a bit cross-cultural for me to return to America!

##### While Singaporeans aren’t “huggy-kissy” people culturally, I think there’s a lot of room here for more affection in Christ Jesus.

### How are you doing at imitating Paul’s people-oriented nature?

(So how’s this chapter summed up? I think Paul is basically saying this…)

# Conclusion

### Advance the gospel by ***giving*** and ***teamwork*** (MI).

MI

### Heed Paul’s exhortations in verses 13-18 which sum up the whole letter:

Submit

#### Guard the faith by following the basics: watchfulness, steadfastness, courage, and moral strength (13).

#### Do everything in love (14).

##### You want a great memory verse that’s simple and profound?

##### Let’s memorize this one together…

#### Submit to your spiritual leaders (15-18).

##### So who are our Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus?

##### May I encourage you to really give your support to Singpu in the coming weeks when I am gone and to your new leaders in the coming year as we vote for elders to replace Lewis.

Singpu

### God’s call for us is basically “Others-Centered Christianity.” Let’s do it for His glory and other’s benefit!

Black

### Paul expresses to the Corinthians the benediction I feel towards all of you:

#### “The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.

#### My love to all of you in Christ Jesus. Amen.”

Grace Baptist Church Dr. Rick Griffith

16 May 1999 Message #24 of 24

NIV 35 Minutes

**Others-Centered Christianity**

***1 Corinthians 16***

**Topic:** Ministry

**Subject:** Advance the gospel these next few months

**Complement:** by giving and teamwork

**Purpose:** The listeners will be encouraged to press on during the transition stage of the latter half of 1999 by being others-centered.

# Introduction

### [Transitions are a normal part of life.]

#### I wonder how many of you feel like you are going through a transition in your life? Raise your hand.

#### One discovery that has struck me recently is that I seemed to be saying, “I’m going through a transition” and saying this quite a bit. Then one day it struck me that I said this all the time! Friends, *life* is a transition!

### The same applies to GBC.

#### While challenges remain and the transition into getting a new senior pastor still exists, even when God provides this man, another transition will follow!

#### But I must say that God has blessed me in my five-month pastoral ministry during *this* transition time at Grace. This period has brought me closer to many of you than I ever have been in these past eight years.

### Yet one of the series of transitions affecting me and my family is that we will leave you for eight months a week from Friday—on 28 May.

#### It’s our regular home assignment in the US after teaching two and a half years at SBC.

#### During this next semester we’ll report on God’s work here in Asia to a dozen churches and 80 families—as well as have time with our own families which we haven’t seen since 1996.

#### Then, Lord willing, we’ll see you again in the first week of February. So this is my good-bye message.

### In 1 Corinthians 16 Paul also said good-bye to the Corinthians until he saw them again in about eight months—though he did write another letter within that time.

### Paul’s letter was to a church in transition, just like us. And his conclusion brought up this question: What was the church to do until he saw them again? This is the issue noted in your bulletin outline…

### For you dear people the question is this: What should *you* do to advance the gospel before we join you again next February?

### Subject: Here’s some of Paul’s tips on how to advance the gospel the next few months until we return. The first bit of advice is to…

# I. *Give* to the needy saints.

#  [Help less privileged believers financially.]

## The Corinthians were to advance the gospel until Paul returned by giving to needy Jerusalem saints (1-4).

### The Jerusalem church was the mother church but also the poorer church. Probably this was due to the persecution against the Jewish Christians, which caused many of them to lose their jobs.

### Paul’s instructions to Corinth on giving were consistent with those he gave the Galatians.

### What’s interesting about this is that while the Galatians were attacked on the doctrine of salvation, they didn’t have *near* the number and severity of problems as the Corinthians.

#### Galatians had people come from the *outside* attacking Paul, but at Corinth they were *right inside* the church!

#### Galatians struggled with doctrinal problems, but the Corinthians had such severe theological struggles that they were taking one another to court, condoning a man who’s sleeping with his step-mother, and really messing up in using spiritual gifts simply for their personal edification.

(So would you expect Paul to tell a church like this to make sure they keep giving as a high priority? After all, they have a host of heavy-weight problems to address! Well, he does reaffirm the importance of giving, and…)

## Here we find four helpful tips on giving:

### Give *to believers in need* (1).

#### Churches in transition typically drop in their giving—it’s happened in a number of churches which have given to me as their missionary over the years.

##### We can be tempted in this arena, don’t you think?

##### We could say, “Whoa, we can’t increase our giving without a senior pastor!”

#### In our leadership transition how are we supporting the advance of the gospel?

##### Missionaries continue to be sent out—Dicky and Lay Peng, George and Rosalind Kwek, last week we heard about Reuben Soh’s upcoming Japan mission. In fact, the missions committee has an ambitious goal of increasing our missions giving from $28,000 to $35,000 monthly! Can we do it! Yes!

##### We continue to support ministries in Myanmar and more recently in Sri Lanka and God is honoured in this.

#### This month I been touched by two incidents of giving.

##### One of my Burmese students is heading back to Myanmar to get married in two weeks. But he desperately needs eye surgery back here in Singapore next month. When he shared this need with our small group, I challenged the guys to contribute to help pay his $700 airfare. Within a short time these eight brothers, most of whom have little financial resources, gave $1020!

##### Pastor Lian Khan Kap is one of my former students from Myanmar who I met with last week. He returned to Singapore to try to get money for the rental of their church building in Yangoon. The rental is only $150 a month, but the 30 adults in his congregation cannot pay it even though they all tithe! Most make only about S$30 a month—the same as the pastor. I shared this need in passing with my evening school of professionals without the intent of raising any money from them. Yet a few days later one sent $600—enough rent for four months!

### Give regularly (2a). [Read all of verse 2.]

#### Offerings should be collected each Sunday so that the church would have sufficient funds before Paul arrived.

#### In the case of saving our offerings, I think we’re doing a good job—perhaps too good a job! The intent here, is, of course, saving to invest in God’s work—not saving to save.

#### Some here give once a month. Well, that’s not every Sunday like this says, but it still is regular.

#### My own personal conviction is to give something every time the bag passes. Even if I have completed my committed amount before the Lord, I try to still put something in the bag as a reminder of all I owe the Lord.

(So Paul’s point is to give to needy believers and to do it regularly. Also…)

### Give proportionately (2b).

#### When I first saw the “Give one dollar to your favorite charity on TV” I thought it was a joke. Surely us Christians must be more generous than that!

#### But Paul doesn’t specify an amount.

##### If the amount should be “in keeping with his income” then what about the tithe?

##### Yes, the NT doesn’t demand tithing but for some of us a tithe is way too low.

###### One study showed that households with incomes of US$10,000 give away 2.8% but those earning US$50,000-$100,000 give away 1.5%. GIVING lowest

###### A man once came to his pastor for counseling. He felt convicted that he had not been faithful in giving God a portion of the generous $1000 a week salary he was making. The man explained, “I had no problem thanking God and giving Him a liberal offering when I was making just $50 a week. Please pray for me.” The pastor then prayed, much to the man’s dismay, “Father, bring this man back to a $50 a week salary so that he can get back into your will.” GIVING proportional

##### Another question comes up when people convinced of tithing ask, “Is the tithe *before* CPF deductions or after?” The answer? It depends on whether you want God to bless you based on the net or bless you based on the gross!

##### I wonder if the Lord is ever going to ask us how much we gave. I’m convinced He will be more concerned with how much we spent on ourselves.

### Give responsibly (3-4).

#### The money should be brought to Jerusalem by trustworthy men (3).

##### Why did Paul ask others to take the money to Jerusalem and not do it himself?

##### This may have been because one church already had put Paul’s motives into question—the Thessalonians.

#### We also need to act responsibly.

##### Our mission committee practice is not to give to those ministries that we don’t know or where we won’t have any follow-up.

##### This is a good policy, but even better is for us to get out there and visit these potential ministries personally. I’m encouraged to see us send out our members to follow-up ministries to which we give.

(In any case, the big picture here is that we must press on during our transitions—and a key way to do this is to keep giving to those less blessed than us. What is another of Paul’s tips on how to advance the gospel the next few month’s until I see you again? The rest of the chapter basically says this…)

# II. Minister as a *team*.

 [Teamwork is what we especially need during this leadership transition at Grace.]

## Show teamwork with your ***leaders*** (5-18).

### Assist leaders financially (5-9).

#### The Corinthians could financially assist Paul after more ministry in Ephesus, a summer preaching tour in Macedonia, and an extended visit to Corinth.

#### One item really blessed me last deacon’s meeting. A proposal came before the men to support a Christian leader at a certain amount. You know what happened? They in essence said, “That amount is too small. Let’s raise it another 50%!” That’s generosity and that’s teamwork!

### Teamwork is particularly important during difficult times—notice in verse 9 how Paul links effective ministry with opposition.

#### God often does His greatest work during the tough times. No doubt you all have read much regarding the Columbine High School shooting. But here’s a report from a Colorado Youth Pastor which you probably never read about in the media:

##### “I was blessed with an invitation from a… youth pastor to attend the funeral [of Cassie Bernall]. Cassie was totally anti-Christian 2 years ago. She was involved in witchcraft and very suicidal. Her parents forcibly drug her into the youth pastor's office. When she walked out, his reaction was, ‘Wow, she is a lost cause...’ Through the prayers of her church's youth group, parents, and youth pastor Cassie about 6 months later walked back up to the youth pastor and said, ‘You'll never guess what I did today... I gave my life to Christ...’

##### “From that point forward, Cassie was a radical evangelist on her campus. The funeral showed some video tape of her sharing parts of her testimony which were very powerful. It is because of her radical faith on Campus that she was asked if she believed in God. She replied "Yes, I believe in Jesus" (Not “I believe in God” as the media has reported)... For that she was killed. I can say that her parents were devastated but proud of their daughter… The funeral was more of a celebration of Christ's work in her and through her and a number of girls shared how she had led them to faith... [At Cassie’s memorial, 150 kids came forward to receive Christ, and several parents and a few teachers. At Rachel Scott's funeral, something of the same proportions.]

#### Do you see the sense of teamwork and revival that God has brought about? Another pastor reported, “We are planning an evening with the entire student body next Saturday night, the 8th, to have 50-75 of my men and their wives meet and hang out with the students of Columbine. No media, no speeches, just a lot of hugging, crying, probably a few laughs and some good ol’ fashion interaction… Our whole community has clearly been moved, and the best part… has been a 100% complete reversal on prayer in school. I mean it's bold, it's necessary, and no one remembers what the laws are. Kids are praying, faculty are praying, and they are praying in school. In Littleton, CO. I'm telling you, what He wants, He'll have. Every time.”

### Encourage your leaders (10-11).

#### This church could encourage Timothy with compassion if he makes it to the church. Why these cautions regarding Timothy? Other texts also reveal him to be a timid leader. Remember “Timid-thee”?

#### We gotta encourage one another more here—leaders and all. Keep putting more notes on the Encouragement Board than you receive, OK?

### Recognize the calling of your leaders (12).

#### Here Paul didn’t insist on his own opinion of what he thought Apollos should do. The Corinthians should understand that Apollos felt he should stay in Ephesus despite Paul’s strong urging to accompany the letter.

#### Recognizing our leaders’ convictions has been one of our challenges in recent years. Perhaps one thing God is telling us is to also recognize His hand in it.

### (13-18) The Corinthians could submit to all of their spiritual leaders by heeding the exhortations of the letter.

(So verses 5-18 encourage teamwork with your leaders. Now in the final verses he says to…)

## Show teamwork within ***yourselves*** (19-24)

### Paul’s people-priority was shown in sending greetings from those with him in Ephesus (19-20).

#### Aquila and Priscilla had ministered in Corinth, so it was appropriate to bring greetings from them.

#### But should *we* greet each other with a holy kiss? After all, it is commanded!

##### In two weeks I preach in Hawaii, where this is taken literally. I must admit, it’s a bit cross-cultural for me to return to America!

##### While Singaporeans aren’t “huggy-kissy” people culturally, I think there’s a lot of room here for more affection in Christ Jesus.

### How are you doing at imitating Paul’s people-oriented nature?

(So how’s this chapter summed up? I think Paul is basically saying this…)

# Conclusion

### Advance the gospel these next few months by ***giving*** and ***teamwork*** (MI).

### So what do I say as a parting final word to you before I see you again? I want to exhort you to heed Paul’s exhortations in verses 13-18 which sum up the whole letter:

#### Guard the faith by following the basics: watchfulness, steadfastness, courage, and moral strength (13).

#### Do everything in love (14).

##### You want a great memory verse that’s simple and profound?

##### Let’s memorize this one together…

#### Submit to your spiritual leaders (15-18).

##### So who are our Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus?

##### While I’m gone I trust that you’ll willingly submit to those the Lord has placed over you—Pastor Ric, Tony and the deacons, Tom Chandler, and others.

### God’s call for us is basically “Others-Centred Christianity.” Let’s do it for His glory and other’s benefit!

### Paul expresses to the Corinthians the benediction I feel towards all of you:

#### “The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.

#### My love to all of you in Christ Jesus. Amen.”

# Preliminary Questions

**Verses Questions**

# Context What did the author record just prior to this passage?

### Paul just finished discussing how the resurrection of Christ guarantees our own resurrection.

### Now in 16:1 we find his last time to use the phrase “now about” which has marked each new section of his letter (cf. 12:1; 15:1).

# Purpose Why is this passage in the Bible?

# Background What historical context helps us understand this passage?

### The Jerusalem church was the mother church but also the poorer church. Probably this was due to the persecution against the Jewish Christians, which caused many of them to lose their jobs.

### Paul is writing from Ephesus in modern day Turkey and needing help to bring the gospel farther (16:6). In the letter to the Romans written a year or two later his vision is clarified to go to Spain.

# Questions

### How do I summarize Paul’s final plans for the giving to Jerusalem saints, ministry plans, greetings into a single MI?

### Who were “God’s people” in this context (1)?

### Is this a way of referring to Jerusalem believers (3)?

### Do we find these giving instructions to Galatians in Paul’s NT letter to them (1)?

### Does verse 2 indicate to us that the early church followed Sunday worship?

### Where should this sum of money be set aside—home? Church?

### Why should money be set aside rather than be given at church?

### Is this a special offering or the regular weekly giving?

### If the amount given should be “in keeping with is income” (2) then what about the OT tithe?

### Why did Paul want others to take the money to Jerusalem rather than do it himself (3)? This may have been because one church already had put Paul’s motives into question—Thessalonians.

### Where was Paul when he wrote this?

### What did he mean be “help me on my journey”?

### Did the Lord permit Paul this additional time with them (7)? Yes, he ended up spending the following winter with them (AD 56-57).

### Why these cautions regarding Timothy (10-11)?

### Should we submit to all leaders like Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus (16)?

### Should we greet each other now with a holy kiss (20)?

# Tentative Subject/Complement Statements

The way to advance the gospel is through giving (1-4) and teamwork (5-24).

# Possible Illustrations

### Transitions also happen at Crossroads (Intro in 2008).

#### Remember that first picture taken of our church? No, most of you don’t—even two years ago! Of the 17 people at that first planning meeting, the only ones left besides Susan and me are Roy and Amy—and they move to Hong Kong in June!

1st Picture

#### Yet the church has grown over the past two years so we have about 80 people who I think would consider CIC their church.

Growth

#### The past few months God brought our way Enriko to lead our Youth and Amaraa to head up our Home Groups.

EnrAmaraa

#### Challenges remain and the transition to get a full-time pastor-teacher to replace me still exists—but the Lord has been good to bring Lewis on as elder to assist me. Yet even after God provides a full-time pastor-teacher, another transition will follow!

Elders

### I gave up leading Israel tours for the time being to help the poorer saints in Asia.

### How are we propagating the gospel?

#### Missionaries

#### Money sent to Myanmar, Sri Lanka

#### Last night’s Parent’s Evangelistic Rally

### Since 1995 thousands of Christians have retraced the steps of those who nearly 1000 years ago slaughtered Muslims, Jews, and Orthodox Christians across Europe all the way to Israel.

### While I’m gone I trust that you will willingly submit to those the Lord has placed over you—Tony, Ric, Tom Chandler, etc.

### Singaporean giving

#### Give one dollar to your favorite charity on TV

#### The issue is whether you want God to bless the net or bless the gross.

One item really blessed me at a leadership meeting at my last church. A proposal came before the men to support a Christian leader at a certain amount. You know what happened? They in essence said, “That amount is too small. Let’s raise it another 50%!” That’s generosity and that’s teamwork!

**Others-Centred Christianity**

***1 Corinthians 16***

**Exegetical Outline**

# *Exegetical Idea:* The way the Corinthians could advance the gospel until Paul returned to them was by giving and teamwork.

# I. (1-4) The way the Corinthians could advance the gospel until Paul returned to them was by giving to the needy Jerusalem saints.

## (1) Paul’s instructions to Corinth on giving was consistent with those he gave the Galatians.

## (2) Offerings proportionate to their income should be collected each Sunday so that the church would have sufficient funds before Paul arrived.

## (3) The money should be brought to Jerusalem by trustworthy men after Paul arrived at Corinth.

## (4) Paul left open the option of himself accompanying the men.

# II. (5-24) The way the Corinthians could advance the gospel until Paul returned to them was by teamwork.

## The way the Corinthians could help their leaders was by financial support, encouragement, and understanding (5-18).

### (5-9) The Corinthians could financially assist Paul after more ministry in Ephesus, a summer preaching tour in Macedonia, and an extended visit to Corinth.

### (10-11) The Corinthians could encourage Timothy with compassion if he makes it to the church.

### (12) The Corinthians should understand that Apollos felt he should stay in Ephesus despite Paul’s strong urging to accompany the letter.

### (13-18) The Corinthians could submit to all of their spiritual leaders by heeding the exhortations of the letter.

#### (13) Guard the faith by following the basics: watchfulness, steadfastness, courage, moral strength.

#### (14) Do everything in love.

#### (15-18) Submit to spiritual leaders.

## (19-24) The way the Corinthians could help their relationships was by imitating Paul’s people-priority shown in greeting others.

###  (19-20) Paul sends greetings from those with him in Ephesus.

### (21-24) Paul sends a curse to those who do not love the Lord but love to those who do.

**Homiletical Outline** (Cyclical inductive form)

# Introduction

### My family will leave you for eight months a week from Friday.

### Paul also said good-bye to the Corinthians until he saw them again in about eight months—though he wrote another letter within that time.

### What should you do to advance the gospel before we join you again next February?

### Subject: Here’s some of Paul’s tips on how to advance the gospel the next few month’s until we return…

# I. Give to needy saints (1-4).

## The Corinthians were to advance the gospel until Paul returned by giving to needy Jerusalem saints (1-4).

## Here we find four of God’s commands on giving:

### Give to believers in need (1).

### Give regularly (2a).

### Give proportionately (2b).

### Give responsibly (3-4).

#### The money should be brought to Jerusalem by trustworthy men after Paul arrived at Corinth (3).

#### Paul left open the option of himself accompanying the men (4).

# II. Minister as a team (5-24).

## Show teamwork with your leaders (5-18).

### Assist leaders financially (5-9).

#### The Corinthians could financially assist Paul after more ministry in Ephesus, a summer preaching tour in Macedonia, and an extended visit to Corinth.

#### We should…

### Encourage your leaders (10-11).

#### The Corinthians could encourage Timothy with compassion if he makes it to the church.

#### We should…

### Recognize the calling of your leaders (12).

#### The Corinthians should understand that Apollos felt he should stay in Ephesus despite Paul’s strong urging to accompany the letter.

#### We should…

## Show teamwork within yourselves (19-24)

### Paul’s people-priority was shown in sending greetings from those with him in Ephesus (19-20).

### Paul sent a curse to those who do not love the Lord but love to those who do (21-24).

### We must help our relationships by imitating Paul’s people-oriented nature.

# Conclusion

### Advance the gospel these next few months by giving and teamwork (MI).

### Let’s heed Paul’s exhortations which sum up the letter (13-18).

#### Guard the faith by following the basics: watchfulness, steadfastness, courage, and moral strength (13).

#### Do everything in love (14).

#### Submit to spiritual leaders (15-18).

### Prayer

# Introduction

### Transitions often turn us inward.

### Subject: How can you advance the gospel during transition?

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# Conclusion

### Advance the gospel by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Main Idea).

### Let’s heed Paul’s exhortations that sum up the letter (13-18).

**Rick Griffith**

5 May 2013

*Message 24 of 24 in “Becoming Who We Are” 1 Corinthians Series*

**Others-Centered Christianity**

**1 Corinthians 16**

# Introduction

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### Transitions often turn us inward.

### Subject: How can you advance the gospel during transition?

# I. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to needy saints (1-4).

## The Corinthians were to advance the gospel until Paul returned by giving to needy Jerusalem saints (1-4).

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### Let’s heed Paul’s exhortations that sum up the letter (13-18).

**Thought Questions**

1. Read 1 Corinthians 16 aloud. What are your initial thoughts about Paul ending his letter in this manner? Which verses surprise you?

Rom. 16:16 Greet one another with a **holy kiss**. All the churches of Christ greet you.

1Cor. 16:20 All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a **holy kiss**.

2Cor. 13:12 Greet one another with a **holy kiss**.

1Th. 5:26   Greet all the brethren with a **holy kiss**.

1. The proposed Main Idea of this chapter is to *advance the gospel by giving and teamwork*. How are you doing personally in giving to the Lord’s work?

Our church can have a Christmas evangelistic event at Lakeside Family Centre

Give the percentage that the Lord has put on your heart

Learn to give when you are young

1. What principles should guide our church in its giving of God’s money to others?

Pray first!

The theology of the recipient ministry should match our church

Give only when God has provided the money (don’t go in debt to give)

Don’t give simply out of guilt

Give to ministries where we have a connection for credibility and follow-up

Set up a mission committee that takes the decision-making from the leaders

Provide monthly support to missionaries but only one-time support to nationals

1. How can we have better teamwork between our people and leaders at CIC?

The people and the leaders both serve each other

You can’t “over-communicate” the plans for the church

Tell what is happening on the calendar website