

## Disciples are Liberal

**Are you a liberal?** I know this is a loaded question in these contentious days we live in. In fact the word liberal for many has become almost a dirty word hasn't it? In fact most liberals would prefer the term progressive. At the same time many Christians would never want to be called a liberal. Yet I want you to know that a true disciple of Christ is indeed liberal!

Before you break and run let me explain. In II Corinthians Paul addresses the offering that was being taken up for the Saints in Jerusalem. The Corinthians had been one of the first churches to promise to give but then they failed to carry out on that promise. So one of the issues Paul addresses in II Corinthians is getting them to fulfill their promise in chapters eight and nine. These two chapters are some of the greatest teaching on giving in the Scriptures.

Near the end of chapter nine he sums up his encouragement by saying in verse thirteen, "Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else." That is the New International Versions translation of the verse.

Let me read you to you how the King James Version translates that last phrase of the verse. It says, "and for your **liberal distribution** unto them, and unto all men." The New American Standard Version translates the passage as saying, "Because of the proof given by this ministry, they will glorify God for *your* obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the **liberality of your contribution** to them and to all." Some translations use the word generosity and others use the word liberal or liberality.

The bottom line is that as disciples we are to give generously and liberally! So while some might say being a liberal is a bad thing we in the church we should be known at least in our giving for being liberal.

So this morning whether politically you are a conservative or a liberal let's all be liberal in our giving. Your liberal gift WILL help others which will cause people to praise God for your liberality!