

Living Up to the Biblical Ideal

As we start our time of worship through giving, I want to ask, “Is your giving living up to the biblical ideal?”

The Barna Institute released a study on America’s giving patterns entitled, *The Generosity Gap*. In their introduction comes this quote,

“From a spiritual standpoint, generosity, according to the Scriptures, is, among other things:

- **A hallmark of a good life:** “The generous will prosper” (Prov. 11:25)
- **A natural response to God’s generosity:** “Everything we have has come from you, and we give you only what you first gave us!” (1 Chron. 29:14)
- **A benchmark of our love for God:** “I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me drink. When you did it to one of these, my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!” (Matt. 25:34-40)
- **A principle way to obey Christ:** “Share each other’s burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ” (Gal. 6:2)”

Those are high ideals. Yet after this quote, they state, “**Most U.S. Christians today do not live up to the biblical ideal.**”

I don’t know about you, but I don’t want to be in the “most U.S. Christians” segment. I *want* for all of us that our giving would be a benchmark of our love for God. All of us must continually ask ourselves if our giving is living up to the biblical ideal.

This is one reason we take up the offering every week here. It gives you a chance to live up to biblical ideals. So, as we take up this week’s offering, let’s not be like “most” Christians. Let’s live up to the biblical ideal.
