

Charity

CHARITY – The sacrifice pleasing to God

Definition:

1. Generous actions or donations to aid the poor, ill, or helpless
2. Christian love; agape

Leviticus 19 shows God's provisions for it

Leviticus 19:9 and 10

“...you shall not reap to the very corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. Nor shall you glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather the fallen fruit of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the needy and for the stranger. I am YAHWEH your God.”

Leviticus 19:34

“The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the native among you, and **you shall love him as yourself...**”

LOVE IN THE LAW

The law expressly defines how to approach and be in relationship with YAHWEH, as well as in relationship with fellow Israelites and the surrounding nations. These standards of righteousness for worship of YAHWEH (and accountability) and right relationship with others is inextricably linked to love – never being meant to be an “outward observance” only. (Albeit they were unable to wash the heart clean until Messiah's sacrifice of love.)

SACRIFICES THAT PLEASE YAHWEH

Psalms 51:17 and 19

“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.”

“Then You will delight in righteous sacrifices, In burnt offering and whole burnt offering; Then young bulls will be offered on Your altar.”

THE TITHE and Charity

Deuteronomy 15:7-11 Provisions for charity to the poor man

The 1st Tithe (Deuteronomy 14:22) was eaten as a sacrifice in celebration before YAHWEH

The 2nd Tithe (Numbers 18:21) was for the Levite – as their inheritance.

The 3rd Tithe (Deuteronomy 14:28 and 29) was for the poor, alien, orphan, and widows – to eat and celebrate with everyone else.

THE TITHE and Charity (cont'd)

Deuteronomy 10:18 and 19 “So show your love for the alien...”

Deuteronomy 16:9-17 The strangers, fatherless, and widows were to celebrate specifically with “Israel” in the feasts of YAHWEH.

Deuteronomy 26:12-15 The tithe at work with joy!

Note: why is “agape” translated “charity?” Reference 1 Corinthians 13

“God the Giver” – Reference the prodigal son. Luke 15:11-32

James 1:17

“Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.”

THE FAST

Isaiah 58 “Is it a fast like this which I choose...” The point is not the ceremony or a carnal self-absorption. It is charity – to give and love in action (faith).

The point is to have a pure heart which is transparent, wide open with God, rather than covering up with our own “disguises.”

NEW COVENANT “CHARITY” (Agape – love and sacrifice)

- The widow’s mite. Mark 12:41-44 It seemed insignificant – not to YAHWEH.
- The woman’s alabaster box. Mark 14:1-11 Great faith and love – ridiculed!
- The gift for the church in Jerusalem Acts 11:27-30
- For our preachers 1 Corinthians 9:14

SOWING AND REAPING (Galatians 6:1-10)

Galatians 6:7 and 8

“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.”

Verse 9 Clarifies by saying, “Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.” “Charity” is sowing to the spirit and is meant as a love offering – not a mechanical “operation.”

2 Corinthians 8:8

“...proving through the earnestness of others the sincerity of your love.”

SOWING AND REAPING (cont'd)

2 Corinthians 9:7

“Each one *must do* just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

2 Corinthians 8:12 “...according to what a person has...” Look at the widow’s mite and the alabaster box again.

2 Corinthians 8:24 “...the proof of your love...”

SOWING TO THE SPIRIT

Principle of New Covenant sacrifice – Romans 12

David’s declaration

1 Chronicles 21:24

“No, but I will surely buy *it* for the full price; for I will not take what is yours for YAHWEH, or offer a burnt offering which costs me nothing.”

Contrast with the book of Malachi – where many were giving YAHWEH the junk.

“AGAPE-CHARITY” as new covenant worship, a sweet offering to Yahweh

1 John 3:17 and 18

“But whoever has the world’s goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.”

Ephesians 4:28

“...so that he will have *something* to share with one who has need.”

"Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return." Luke 6:38

“We love, we give, because the loving, giving God is living and operating in us. Christian love is an expression of God’s loving character. Christian giving is an expression of God’s giving character which has been given to us.” (The Divine Character of Christian Giving by James Fowler, copyrighted 1999)