

**Loris First Baptist Church**  
***“Twelve Marks of a Mature Disciple of Christ”***

TEST TWELVE OF DISCIPLESHIP MATURITY

**Characteristic #6 - “Hands That Give Generously”**

*A careful study of the transformation of the Apostle Paul, from a brand new Christian (Acts 9) into a mature disciple of Jesus Christ (Acts 28), reveals that there were six key “Christ-like” characteristics he exhibited which were developed through his spiritual growth after his salvation. The failure for a Christian to have and work on these characteristics will severely hinder his or her ability to display Christ-likeness as has been commanded by The Word of God (Luke 6:40; Matthew 16:24; 1Peter 2:21; 1John 2:3-6).*

*One characteristic of a disciple of Jesus Christ is that he or she knows that everything we have belongs to God (Job 41:11; Psalm 24:1). Paul understood that even our bodies belonged to God and should be used to honor Him in all that we do (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). That is why Paul urged all believers to set aside a percentage of their income each week (1 Corinthians 16:2) so that they could excel in the “grace” of giving to advance the kingdom of God’s work on the earth (2 Corinthians 8:7). He also commanded those who were financially well off (i.e. “rich”) to be “generous” and share with others who are in need (1 Timothy 6:18). When believers faithfully give to His causes, Jesus continuously provides them with all that they need to minister to other’s needs (2 Corinthians 9:8) which proves their faith is real (James 2:14-26) and results in more praise and thanksgiving to God (2 Corinthians 9:12-13). So, as a disciple of Jesus Christ, do you have hands that give generously?*

**Directions:** Please circle the number that best represents how you would rate yourself in response to each of the 12 questions and corresponding Scripture provided.

\*\*\*\*\*

Scripture #1: *“Who has a claim against me that I must pay? Everything under heaven belongs to me.”*  
*(Job 41:11)*

*“The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it” (Psalm 24:1)*

Question #1: I know that as a disciple of Jesus Christ that everything on the earth ultimately belongs to God, including everything that I have in my possession. This means I treat my body, property, and money as if it is not mine...but His.

This is Not True About Me

This is Sort of True About Me

This is Totally True About Me

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

\*\*\*\*\*

Scripture #5: *But you are to seek the place the LORD your God will choose from among all your tribes to put His Name there for His dwelling. To that place you must go; there bring your burnt offerings and sacrifices, your tithes and special gifts, what you have vowed to give and your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks. (Deuteronomy 12:5-6)*

*“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house.” (Malachi 3:10)*

*With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need. (Acts 4:33-35)*

Question #5: I know that my first priority of giving is a “tithe” (fixed portion of my income) that is to be given to my church so that Christ’s bride (the church) will survive and thrive.

This is Not True About Me

This is Sort of True About Me

This is Totally True About Me

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

\*\*\*\*\*

Scripture #6: *“No one is to appear before me empty handed...” (Exodus 34:20)*

*On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income... (1 Corinthians 16:2)*

Question #6: Whether I am rich or poor by the world’s standards, as a disciple of Jesus Christ, I understand that I will always have enough to give something back to the Lord as a sign of my trust in Him.

I Don't Understand this Concept

I Sort Of Understand This Concept

I Totally Understand This Concept

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

\*\*\*\*\*

Scripture #7: *Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, NOT RELUCTANTLY or under COMPULSION, for God loves a CHEERFUL GIVER. (2 Corinthians 9:7)*

Question #7: I know that the amount of what I give to the Lord each week at His church is ultimately my decision. What I choose to give, I give joyfully, because I truly want to contribute to what Christ is doing to change the lives of others through what I give.

This is Not True About Me

This is Sort of True About Me

This is Totally True About Me

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

\*\*\*\*\*

Scripture #11: *This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? (1 John 3:16-17)*

Question #11: The reason I am generous in sharing what I have with my church and others is because I appreciate what Jesus Christ did for me at the cross of Calvary. When I think of how much He gave to me, I am motivated to give what I have to others.

This is Not True About Me

This is Sort of True About Me

This is Totally True About Me

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

\*\*\*\*\*

Scripture #12: *“Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, ‘How do we rob you?’ In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse--the whole nation of you--because you are robbing me.” (Malachi 3:8-9)*

*Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury... (Mark 12:41)*

Question #12: I understand that God is watching what I do with His money and it is a serious offense against the Lord to not return a portion of what He has given me back to Him. Therefore, I am always careful with what I do with my money so that I can honor Him in how I give to my church and how I share with those in need when He brings them into my path.

This is Not True About Me

This is Sort of True About Me

This is Totally True About Me

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

\*\*\*\*\*

**How to Grade Yourself on “Who is Your Lord”?**

1) Add up all of the numbers you circled for the 12 questions above. (Max score “84”).

2) Compare your scores to the scales below and take action as the Lord leads you:

**84 – 56** *You have “hands that give generously” in a manner that honors the Lord. Strive to continue and increase sharing what God has given you with others so that He is glorified, you are blessed, and the kingdom of God can grow.*

**55 – 29** *You are growing as a disciple of Christ in the area of sharing your wealth. Strive to be more faithful in your giving to your church and those in need.*

**28-7** *You really need to examine why you are not faithful in your tithes and offerings. Your growth in Christ will always be hindered by selfishness.*