

## Small Group Questions

1. According to a well-known commercial, except for a very few things... there is MasterCard. What, ultimately, do we believe that “money” provides for us? Where in your life do you find the threat of “materialism” greatest?
2. When it comes to the “poor,” other than this passage, what biblical verse comes first to your mind?
3. If Paul is not writing here specifically about general support for the local church, what kind of collection is he writing about? You may want to read Acts 11:27ff, Romans 15:14-16, and 2 Corinthians 8:1-15 to help clarify your answer. How should a church choose where it should focus its non-local giving? Does this or any other passage encourage independent giving?
4. How do you believe a local church ministry should be funded? What kind of giving does it take to accomplish this? Should all churches be able to fund their own ministry? Why or why not?
5. In verse 2 Paul provides a prescription of what it will take for a whole church to be generous. What are the three or four elements? What relationship is there between generosity and one’s income? From scripture, should we expect all followers of Jesus to support both their local ministry AND, beyond that, the needs of other Christians? Why or why not?
6. Verses 3-4 are about accountability. What principles of financial accountability would cause you to believe your giving was being used properly?
7. As a result of this study, what practice or practices will you implement in order to expand your involvement in a “no-excuse generous life-style?”