

# 12.

## *Contribute to the needs of the saints*

Romans 12:13a

At the time of the New Testament being written, all believers were known as *saints* (see Rom. 1:7).

From the outset of the Church's birth described in the early chapters of Acts, believers regarded each other as 'brothers and sisters'. That is, they saw the Church as their *family*. Just as we each have an obligation toward the members of our immediate family, these early believers also adopted an obligation toward their needy brothers and sisters who may not have had any immediate family support (note 1Tim. 5:3-5). How we support and show care for each other is a powerful witness to an unbelieving world.

1. What quality do the righteous display in contrast to the wicked? (Psalm 37:21)

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2. According to Proverbs 14:31 who is honoured by godly generosity?

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Perhaps you have felt to help a brother or sister in Christ by giving them some aid? You may have even felt that this was unnecessary because it appeared as if the person you felt prompted to help was doing fine. Sometimes in helping someone out in such circumstances we become aware afterwards of how much need they were actually in at that time.

3. Who would benefit from an application of First Timothy 6:18?

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Often times the saints with the greatest ongoing needs are those who are serving Christ on the mission field where it is lonely, costly, and discouraging. While it may sound like we are concentrating simply on financial needs, this is not the only needs that these folk face. Their needs may also be met by an encouraging letter or email, or by taking time to pray for them.

4. Why would the Lord bless the generous based on Proverbs 14:21?

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5. What does God promise for those who are generous? (2Corinthians 9:11)

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6. How should followers of Christ apply Matthew 5:42?

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7. In a media-driven age that cultivates public relations, how should Christians live out Matthew 6:2?

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8. In what ways can this small group apply a combination of Romans 12:13 and Galatians 6:10?

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*Amen.*