



# The Apple's Core

Keeping Christ at the Core of Our Hearts

## What's Wrong with Being Fair?

By Mandy Croushore

"You took him to McDonald's! No fair! When's it going to be MY turn?" Sound familiar? Perhaps, like me, you went through the toddler years teaching your children all about fairness and sharing, only to find yourself having to backpedal by explaining that, "Life isn't always fair," just a few years later. No wonder our kids are sometimes frustrated and confused!

Recently, I have delved into the subject of teaching my children to live a biblically generous life, and found that, while my children were quite generous in some ways, the areas in which they were particularly Scrooge-like were the very areas where

we had a pre-planned set of rules for how they would share or give. How could that be? As I dug deeper, I realized that by telling them in advance what I thought was "fair" they had accepted this as the standard to aim for.

I began to ask myself whether my child was waiting patiently for her turn out of concern for the other person, or is she merely doing it because that is what she knows she has to do to get what she wants? If she gives a suggested amount to the church offering, is she more likely to stop there instead of giving more? The real question is: do her actions stem from the desire to be generous to

others? I've become convinced that by trying to legislate fairness in some situations my children face I have inadvertently allowed them to be stingy in those areas – the opposite effect of what I'd intended. Yikes!

This realization led me on a quest for examples of godly generosity, and I came to 2 Corinthians 9:7 which says, "Each man should give as he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." This verse tells us that whether you give a lot or a little, what God considers most important is the attitude of your heart more than

*(Continued on page 2)*

## THE SOLE SOURCE

In September we asked you to share your ideas for developing good school year habits. Take a look at the suggestions below and see if they might work for you!

- Have a short list (3 things) that kids are to do when they get home that must be done before running off to play or do other things.
- Keep homework supplies handy in a drawer or plastic container near your designated work area...dictionary, pencils, pens, crayons, markers, etc. A chalkboard or white board helps too.
- Mark family calendar with due dates for long-term assignments and test dates as soon as the information is given.

See the complete ideas list at: [www.immanuelbible.net/family/parenting/emoms.php](http://www.immanuelbible.net/family/parenting/emoms.php)

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Surrendered Steps

2007-2008  
Theme Verse:

Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.

Colossians 2:6-7

*E-Moms has a folder for you! If you haven't already received one, please ask your Table Leader for one of our new folders. It's a handy way for you to keep all of this year's newsletters and speaker notes in one place!*

***Generosity surpasses fairness; it connotes lavishness, copiousness and abundance while fairness is merely equitable. Generosity is superior to fairness!***



### ***Ask the Mentor Mom...***

“What do I do when my kids...? How can I better communicate that...?” Do you have a question that could start this way? We have just the right ladies who are ready and willing to offer you some suggestions to tackle your parenting challenges: **OUR MENTOR MOMS!!!** Take advantage of the wisdom that raising 14 unique individuals has provided these ladies and ask them what’s on your heart. Drop your question in the “Ask the Mentor Mom” basket at our next meeting or send it to:

e-moms@immanuelbible.net

## **What’s Wrong with Being Fair?**

(Continued from page 1)

the amount. Compulsion means that there is a requirement or expectation – obviously God doesn’t think that this is the best we can do!

Following this thread on giving, I re-read Luke 6:29, a well-known verse which tells us to “Do to others as you would have them do to you.” At first glance this verse may seem to advocate treating others with fairness, but a reading of the surrounding text shows that there is much more to it than that! Verse 30 says, “Give to anyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back.” This goes above and beyond anything you’d find in the definition of fairness!

My favorite passage addressing God’s view of generosity is the parable of the workers in the vineyard. In Matthew 20:1-16, Jesus tells a parable about the kingdom of heaven, and he describes a landowner who pays several workers the same wages at the end of the workday, although they varied in the amount of time worked. Basically he was thanked with cries of, “No fair!” but the landowner responds, “Are you envious because I am generous?” We probably can’t help but notice the inequality too! If we’ve been taught to think that fairness and equality are worthy goals to strive towards, that only gets us but so far. God is just

and He certainly doesn’t want us to be *unfair*, but beyond that *God desires to be even more than fair: to be generous!* Each worker in this story needed a day’s wages and that was what he was given regardless of how little time he was there to work, even if it meant being overly generous to some. Generosity surpasses fairness; it connotes lavish, copious and abundant giving while fairness is merely equitable. Generosity is superior to fairness!

Returning now to the hearts of our children, how do we encourage them to surpass fairness and implement godly generosity in their lives? Here are four suggestions:

1. Pray with your kids: Pray with them about giving time, money, and “things” (theirs AND yours) and ask God to purify the attitude of your hearts. If sharing is an issue in your home, (when you hear cries of “No fair!” for example) why not stop negotiating, and pray? Let your children pour out their feelings to God in the heat of the moment and allow him to work in their hearts.
2. Discuss God’s view of generosity: Delve into the parable of the workers in the vineyard and other appropriate Scriptures. Talk through their views on fairness. Ask whether they would prefer fairness to generosity and why. What would the consequences be if we received

what was fair, i.e. what we “deserve”?

3. Model generosity yourself: When you make a sacrifice or give of your money or time beyond what some might consider “fair” be sure to talk to your kids about the reasons you’re being generous. Let them know you are following biblical principles. Try NOT to give out of compulsion. For one thing, your kids are likely to pick up on the attitude of your heart and this will send the wrong message about the joy of giving generously.
4. Allow your children opportunities to share generously: Give them chances to give to others *outside* of a designated system. Don’t force, but encourage them not to fall into a routine of only meeting a bare minimum standard. Offer suggestions for surprising others with generosity!

The bottom line is this: while following rules of fairness may *imply* that we’re thinking of the needs of others, I think it is possible for that kind of predictability and record-keeping to take the joy and spontaneity out of giving from the heart by creating stinginess instead; a willingness to give what is expected but no more and to demand what we feel we are “entitled” to have. Let’s seek to break free of the trap of what is “fair” by striving for the higher goal of biblical generosity!

***Did you know...we are in the process of discontinuing the use of cassette tapes for recording our monthly speakers? Keep an eye out for CDs — coming soon!***

## Resources

Do you have trouble figuring out how to talk to your kids about handling their money in a biblical way?

Are you looking for specific suggestions and ideas about giving your kids the chance to learn to use money responsibly? Then you'll want to get the Book of the Month for October; Your Kids Can Master their Money: Fun Ways to Help them Learn How, by Ron and Judy Blue and Jeremy White. This great book has

loads of practical advice for encouraging kids of all ages to learn to be good money managers. Giving kids responsibility for money, as well as the chance to fail, is the key to their effective, biblically-based techniques.

Other resources to try include:

The New Master Your Money, by Ron Blue — this comprehensive book can help you apply biblical principles to your money

management and avoid (or repair) common financial mistakes.

The Treasure Principle, by Randy Alcorn — this little gem of a book packs in some powerful lessons about generous giving.

Shop, Save and Share, by Ellie Kay — in this book for women, you'll get tips and advice for using your financial blessings wisely and sharing generously with others.



*Buy the Book of the Month at tonight's meeting at a **20% discount**, or in the Immanuel Christian Bookstore at the discounted price this month when you mention E-moms before you check out!*

## Getting to the Core

Do you desire to live a more generous life? In order to do that you need to know God's perspective! Do a topical Bible study to discover how he wants you to handle the time, finances and talents he has given you. Here are some verses to get you started (be sure to look up the whole context for each one.) You

might try making a note of each verse on a 3x5 card as you study this topic. Pray and ask God to reveal how these apply to YOU!

Acts 20:35 "...it is more blessed to give than to receive."

2 Corinthians 9:7 "...God loves a cheerful giver."

Luke 6:38 "Give and it will be given to you...for with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Luke 12:48 "...from everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded..."

*"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich."*

*2 Corinthians 8:9*

## 90 Minutes

The theme for the 2007–2008 90 Minutes season is "Dad's Toolbox". Our reference for this year will be Chip Ingram's popular book, "Effective Parenting in a Defective World". Come join us November 5th at 7pm in the Terrace Rooms for "Building Relationships that Bond," with Keith Morgan. All fathers and grandfathers interested in being more purposeful in their parenting are invited to attend. Contact us: [ninetyminutes@verizon.net](mailto:ninetyminutes@verizon.net)

## Mentor Mom Chat

Come join us at Caribou Coffee in the Kings Park Shopping Center for an informal gathering with the Mentor Moms at 9:00am on November 2nd. Feel free to bring your children with you. Hope to see you then!



## E-Moms

E-Moms will not have a meeting in November, but instead will meet again on **December 10th from 7-9 pm in the Fireside Rooms**. Please note the change in location. Nancy Welch will share her insights on "Joy in the Journey." Have a light dinner at home and come join us for an evening of delicious treats, plus encouragement and fellowship!

*We love our children, but please remember that our meetings are for moms only.*



**Mark your Calendar for these important upcoming events!**



## Keeping Christ at the Core of Our Hearts

E-Moms is a Ministry of  
Immanuel Bible Church  
6911 Braddock Rd  
Springfield, VA 22151

Questions?  
703-941-4124 or  
e-moms@immanuelbible.net

*E-Moms is a ministry for mothers of Elementary-aged children. We aim to encourage, refresh, and inspire moms! You will get the opportunity to meet face to face and develop relationships with other moms in the same stage of life who are experiencing some of the same parenting joys and challenges as you. Our monthly meetings provide you with great food (all prepared for you), encouraging speakers (all relevant to you), and stimulating discussion (all geared toward you). Come join us!*

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CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB! YOU'LL FIND THE SCHEDULE OF SPEAKERS FOR THE YEAR, GREAT IDEAS FROM OTHER MOMS ON TOPICS YOU CAN RELATE TO, AS WELL AS E-MOMS RECIPES AND THE ELECTRONIC (PDF) VERSION OF THIS NEWSLETTER!

[WWW.IMMANUELBIBLE.NET/FAMILY/PARENTING/EMOMS.PHP](http://WWW.IMMANUELBIBLE.NET/FAMILY/PARENTING/EMOMS.PHP)

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## Meet the E-Moms Table Leaders

We are pleased to have 7 wonderful ladies serving as your Table Leaders this year! Here is a little bit of information about each of them to help you get to know them better:

- **Tara Day** greets the ladies at the Gala table. She previously served on the hospitality committee for E-Moms and this is her first time as a table leader. Tara is originally from Oklahoma and arrived here six years ago, courtesy of the Army. She has 3 children: Jeremy (12) Corey (11) and Nathan (6) and is enjoying the challenge of beginning a few Bible studies this year.
- **Cindy Baker** is a first-time leader with E-Moms and she hosts the Pink Lady table. She has 4 daughters: Sarah (20), Allison (17), Victoria (14) and Hannah (9). She grew up in Lancaster, PA and came here four years ago on a Navy move. Cindy and her girls love swimming and Penn State, and she hopes to coach swimming again some day!
- **Carol Marriott** is returning for her second year of welcoming ladies to the Braeburn table. She has lived in the area for the last 20 years and has 3 children: Megan (12), Michael (10) and Melinda (9). Carol enjoys gardening, especially herb gardens, also tennis, but most of all she cherishes time with good friends!
- **Wendy Kiwus** has been with E-Moms going on 6 years and is again hosting the Rome table. Her children are: Nicole (14), Sam (11) and Alex (7). Originally from Buffalo, NY, she has lived in Falls Church since 1989. Wendy likes reading, watching anything medical, and visiting new places.
- **Shellie Schneider** joins the team this year as host of the Fuji table. She calls Algona, Iowa her hometown and this is her second year in the Northern Virginia area. Shellie has four children: Madison (9), Neil (7), Ethan (6), and Rylie (5). She likes to read and play outside with the kids, and she also likes to cook (just not clean up!)
- **Madeira Fletcher** is a new table leader for the Jonathan ladies. She is a native of Alexandria, VA and has five children: Madison (12), Dalton (10), Delaney (8), Marimah (5) and Dolan (3). Madeira's hobbies include scrapbooking and baking and she also is a black belt in Tae Kwon Do!
- **Valerie Schwarzwaldner** is hosting the Macintosh table this year. She was born and raised in Portland, Oregon, but has lived here for 15 years. Valerie has twin 9-year-old boys, Nathan and Peter, and a 4 year old girl named Rachel. She likes to cook, sew, garden and to take little trips with her family to explore a new town or area.