

Teaching and Preaching about Tithing . . .
. . . The Way Jesus Did

For Kaleidoscope Conference
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September, 2024

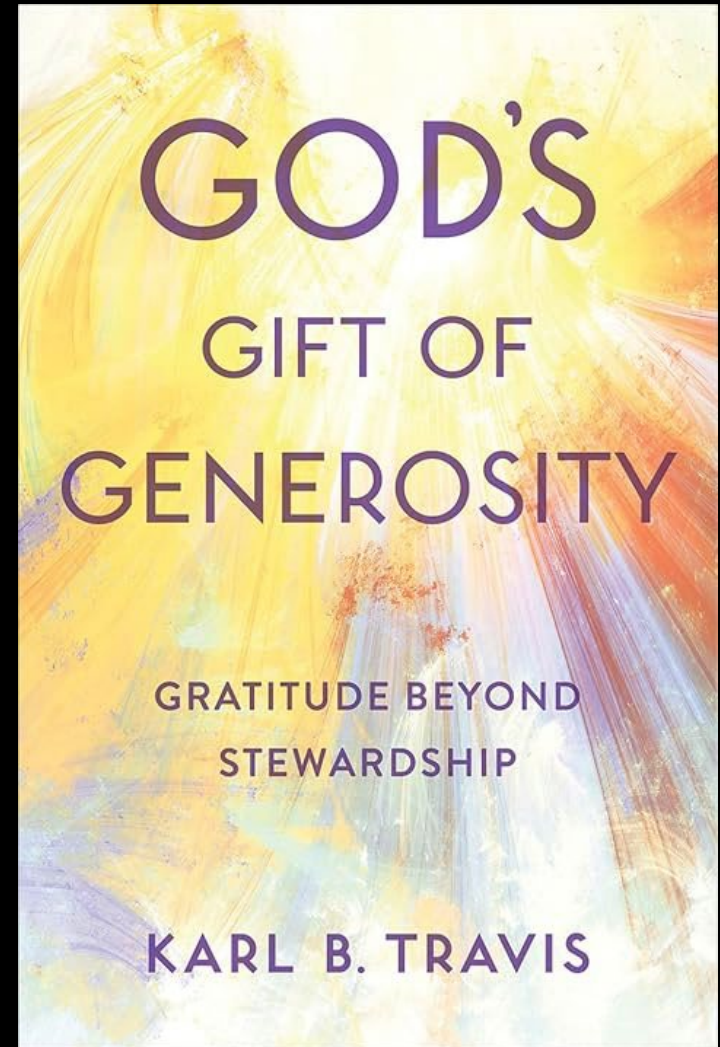
Brief Outline

- A personal note of introduction
- A collegial note of inspiration
- A topical note of conundrum
- A pastoral note of unction
- A soteriological note of continuation
- An eschatological note of intention
- A theological note of predestination
- A theological note of foundation
- An exegetical note of incarnation
- A psychological note of motivation
- A bonus note (or two) of exposition
- The christological conclusion of grace and gratitude

A Personal Note of Introduction

- JHH: Roman Catholic formation
- Age 15: Jesus Movement awakening
- Age 16: Introduction to tithing
- Years of famine
- Years of feasting
- Years of continuing

A Collegial Note of Inspiration



A Topical Note of Conundrum

- The Tithing Conundrum

- Sounds threatening: “Will anyone rob God? Yet you are robbing me! But you say, ‘How are we robbing you?’ In your tithes and offerings!” (Mal, 3:8)
- Jesus sounds silent: Never commands tithing
- Yet: He makes reference to it
- Many testify of its great value
- AND: Tithers carry church budgets
- Still, the real average giver: 2 PERCENT!
 - 2 PERCENT! 2 PERCENT! 2 PERCENT! 2 PERCENT! 2 PERCENT! 2 PERCENT! 2 PERCENT!

A Pastoral Note of Unction (Anointing)

- Pastor – 2 – Pastor
- If we don't tithe, they won't either.

A Soteriological Note of Fulfillment

- OT vs. NT
- OT unto NT

An Eschatological Note of Intention

Biblical giving begins with Theo: God

God's Generosity

Being experienced at the core: God's image and likeness

And it goes forward for creation to reflect God's glory:

The chief end of our humanity = to glorify God

...And, in redemption,predestination

A Theological Note of Predestination

*“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also **predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.”*

(Romans 8:28-30)

A Theological Note of Foundation

Biblical giving begins with Theo: God

God's Generosity

Being experienced at the core: God's image and likeness

And it goes forward for creation to reflect God's glory:

The chief end of our humanity = to glorify God

...And, in redemption, predestined...

...to be conformed to the image of Christ

An Exegetical Note of Incarnation

The nature of Jesus' teaching:

- Historically contextual: The Law and the Prophets
- Immediately contextual:
 - Every different person, Every different audience
 - Every different question, Every different situation
- Regularly metaphorical and analogical
- Regularly aspirational
- Regularly punctuated.

The net effect: Each of us has...

A Jesus we adore and

A Jesus we ignore

A Psychological Note of Motivation

- Aspirations . . . Intentions . . . Motivations . . . Empowerments
- ... which leads to ...

A Psychological Note of Motivation

- Aspirations . . . Intentions . . . Motivations . . . Empowerments
- ... which leads to ... Lawrence Kohlberg.

Kohlberg's Motivations: WHY BE GOOD?

Why do people do the right thing?

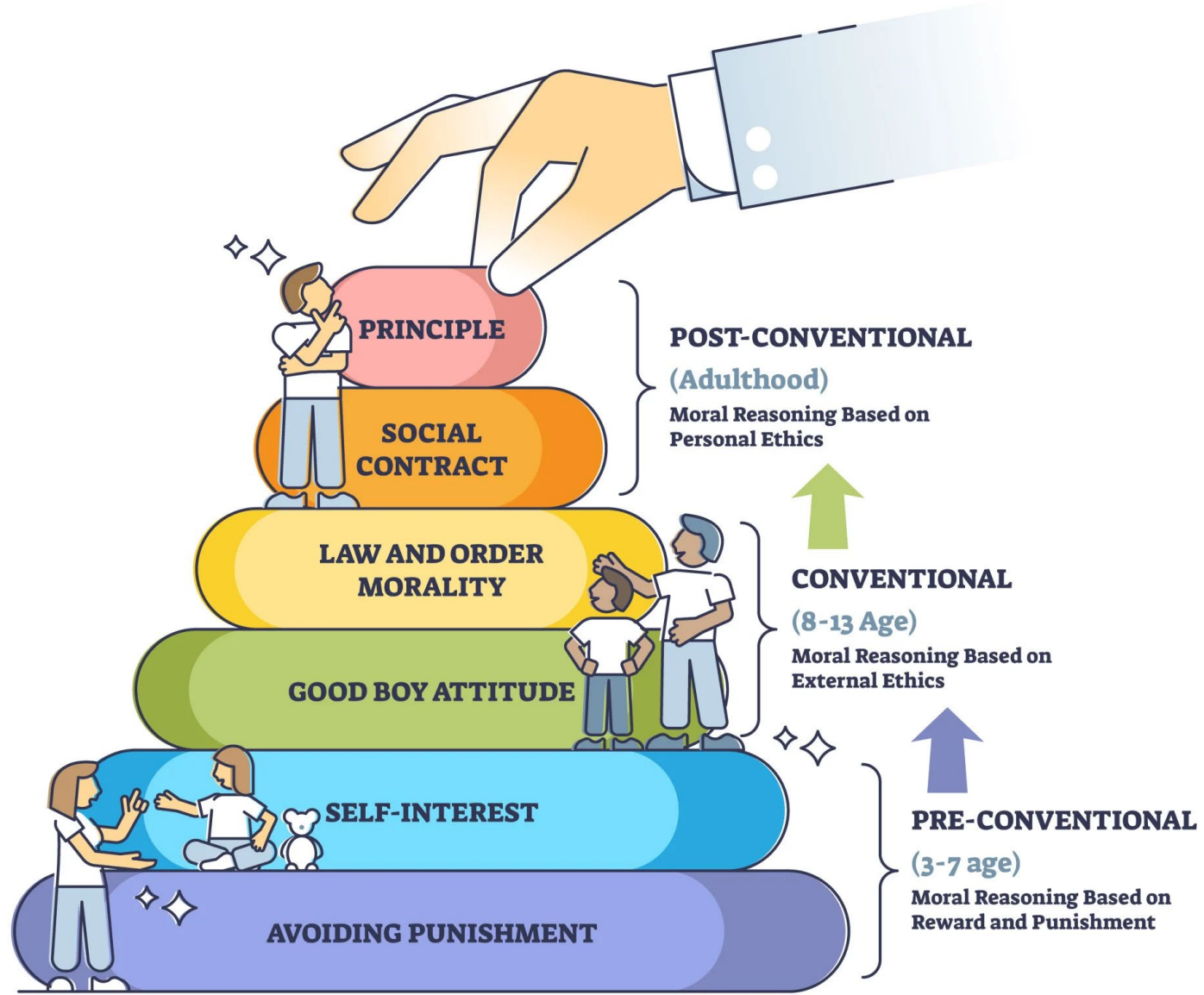
...the loving thing?

...the just thing?

...the moral thing?

...the noble thing?

STAGES OF MORAL DEVELOPMENT



Source: Saul McLeod, Ph.D.

Kohlberg's Motivations: WHY BE GOOD?

- To Avoid Punishment
- To Gain Reward
- To Earn Approval
- To Follow the Law
- To Fulfill a Social Contract
- To Live by Highest Principles

Kohlberg's Motivations: WHY BE GOOD?

1. To Avoid Punishment

- Malachi: “Will You Rob God?!?!”
- I Cor. 5: excommunication
- 2 Thess. 3:10 - For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “Anyone who is unwilling to work shall not eat.”
- Ananias & Sapphira

Kohlberg's Motivations: WHY BE GOOD?

2. To Gain Reward

- “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me” (Matthew 19:21).
- “Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. (Lk. 6)
- Sowing and reaping” (2 Cor. 9:6)

Kohlberg's Motivations: WHY BE GOOD?

3. To Earn Approval

- “I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings” (Luke 16:9).
- Jesus commending widow's mite
- Paul commending generosity of Philippians, Corinthians

Kohlberg's Motivations: WHY BE GOOD?

4. To Follow the Law

- “Render unto Caesar what is Caesar’s and unto God what is God’s.” (Matt. 22:21)
- “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness.” (Matthew 23:23 and Luke 11:42)
- “But just as you excel in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us--see that you also excel in this grace of giving.” (2 Corinthians 8:7)

Kohlberg's Motivations: WHY BE GOOD?

5. To Fulfill a Social Contract

- “Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you” (Matthew 5:42).
- “A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another as I have loved you” (John 13)
- “All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.” (Acts. 2:44,45; see also 4:32-37)

Kohlberg's Motivations: WHY BE GOOD?

6. To Live by Highest Principles

- Agape
- “For God so loved the world...”
- “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (Matt. 22:36-40)
- Good Samaritan (Luke 10:35)
- Heb. 8: Law inscribed in the heart

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Which is the right one?

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Jesus taught them all!

Kohlberg's Motivations: WHY BE GOOD?

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Which audience will you teach? ...and reach?

A quick pitch from “Swimming with the Sharks”

Chapter 15: Epilogue: “Not all Church Leadership Consultants Need to be Ignored, but Many Do.”

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You have heard it said:

“Focus, Focus, Focus

A quick pitch from “Swimming with the Sharks”

Chapter 15: Epilogue: “Not all Church Leadership Consultants Need to be Ignored, but Many Do.”

You have heard it said:

“Focus, Focus, Focus

But I say unto you:

“Peripherate, Peripherate
Peripherate, Peripherate”

*(the 4th one added
for emphasis)*

Which audience will you teach? ...and reach?

Afterwords: Bonus Notes of Exposition

“Doing the Texas Two-Step” – Hezekiah’s Revival

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vc7kl5-bG90&t=2193s>



Afterwords: Bonus Notes of Exposition

“Doing the Texas Two-Step” – Hezekiah’s Revival

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vc7kl5-bG90&t=2193s>
 - 23:45 – Scripture and Sermon commence
 - 32:25 – “The Texas Two-Step”
 - 40:20 – “Measuring the Tithe” (thru 44:30)

Afterwords: Bonus Notes of Exposition

“A Statement, a Declaration, and a Pledge ”

– II Corinthians 9:6-15

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6f8WPdHnLQ>
 - 28:38 – Scripture reading
 - 21:12 – Sermon

A christological conclusion of grace and gratitude

The second of these Bonus Notes of Exposition begins by referring to the previous Sunday's sermon on two essential terms of our faith:

Grace and Gratitude

Our Christocentric faith: Jesus extends grace to us, we respond by gratefully repenting of our old life, embracing in faith his gifts so freely given, and we take on the original commissioning of the original humans, to “be fruitful, multiply, replenish the earth and subdue it.” = be Stewards

