

RE-OPENING CHRISTIANITY:

Am I a Contributor or a Consumer?

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One of the best ways we can show our faith to our world is by contributing to needs. In the early church, Tabitha was well known for serving others. Her death caused many to grieve, but her new life became a testimony of Jesus' power. What do we want our lives to contribute to this world?

"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 and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?" – 1 John 3:16-17, NIV

My Next Step(s):

- I will make a decision to contribute intentionally.
- I will discover "my thing" that God has blessed me with, so I can give personally.
- I will collaborate and be a part of a greater work than I can accomplish alone.

Memory Verse: "And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." - 2 Cor. 9:8, NIV

(Continues on back.)

(This message uses materials provided The Preaching Project, San Antonio, TX.)



Re-Opening
CHRISTIANITY

How can the church re-open
for the better?

Am I **open**
Or am I **closed off**?

Am I a **Contributor**
Or a **Consumer?**

**“My fellow Americans: ask not what
your country can do for you — ask
what you can do for your country.”**

— John F. Kennedy

¹⁶ 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 and sisters. ¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?

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1 JOHN 3:16-17

In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor.

ACTS 9:36

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In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and **helping the poor.**

ACTS 9:36

“helping” — “showing **mercy** to”

Mercy is when you **do not**
treat someone
as their sins **deserve**.

“Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back.”

LUKE 6:30

³⁷ About that time **she became sick and died**, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. ³⁸ Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, “Please come at once!”

ACTS 9:37-39

³⁹ Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, **crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made** while she was still with them.

ACTS 9:37-39

⁴⁰ Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the **dead woman**, he said, “Tabitha, get up.” She **opened her eyes**, and seeing Peter **she sat up**. ⁴¹ He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them **alive**.

ACTS 9:40-41

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ACTS 9:40-41

WELL ... AT LEAST
VENTRILLOQUISM GOT EASIER



When you leave the TV on for your dog, on a news channel, and come home 8 hours later...



**This isn't the mask you wore
to school this morning.**



**No, this one is way cooler.
I traded mine to Taylor
who traded with Hunter.**

Welcome to 2020. If you don't already suffer from an anxiety disorder one will be assigned to you.

**I'd normally ask a question but
since it's 2020, I'll just keep driving**



History teachers in 30 years trying to explain everything that happened in 2020, like...



HAS ANYONE TRIED GIVING

2020 MORE COWBELL?

In Joppa there was a disciple named **Tabitha** (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was **always doing good** and **helping** the poor.

ACTS 9:36

#1

Contribute Intentionally.

THANK YOU!



Giving is about a choice ... a decision you make to use what God has provided to you to bless someone else.

Each of you should give what you have
decided in your heart to give, not
reluctantly or under compulsion.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:7

And God is able to **bless you**
abundantly, so that in all things at all
times, having all that you need, you
will abound in every good work.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:8

“You can’t out-give God!”

“blessed – to be a blessing!”

#2

Contribute Personally.

What's “your thing?”

God has **given each of you a gift** from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.

1 PETER 4:10

*If you want to discover
who **God made you** to be,
begin to give!*

#3

Contribute Collaboratively.



Bible:

66 Books

3 languages

3 different continents over 1,000 years

40 different authors from every walk of life

#3

Contribute Collaboratively.

*“Don’t think that your lifetime limits
what God can do through you!”*

– Dr. Tom Zelt

*“God was **not done** with her life,
when her life was done!”*

*“God was **not done** with their lives,
when their lives were done!”*

²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to **His power** that is at work **within us**, ²¹ to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

EPHESIANS 3:20-21