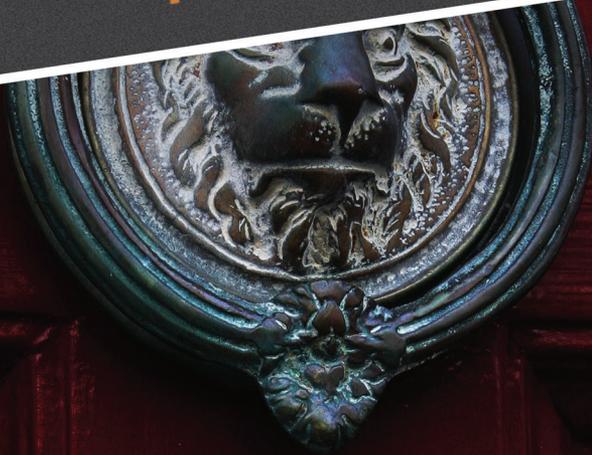


LOVING
generously



12A

Are we willing to pay the price if following Jesus in loving generosity leads us into persecution? When we abandon ourselves to Christ-like generosity, we show that we worship God more than we worship ourselves or the things of the world. Regrettably, when we live lives of radical generosity, even some of our friends within the church may challenge us. Those who persecute us may find their own "gods" insulted by our example; they may rightly feel convicted yet not want to feel convicted.

Have you experienced any form of persecution yourself? If so, what caused the persecution? If not, why do you think that is?

What might Jesus have meant when he said, "I chose you out of the world"? Why would that lead the world to hate those you follow him? Do people find the example of your life challenging? Does your life summon them to lives of more extraordinary self-giving?

FAMILY DISCUSSION

Frank and Cassie's daughter Megan also paid a relational cost for her family's commitment to know, love and serve the poor. If you're a parent contemplating a change in the way your family lives its faith together, how could you communicate with your children about it?

CLOSING THOUGHTS

As you build generous relationships with the poor and disenfranchised, you may lose other relationships that are meaningful to you. You may end up experiencing some form of persecution yourself. You may find yourself a victim of injustice. But Jesus promises (Matthew 5:10): "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Paul's faith cost him everything - relationships, status, income, health, security. And yet he could write these words, knowing he had gained much more than he'd lost. "Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things: (Philippians 3:8).

DO SOMETHING

There are more than 90 "one to anothers" in the New Testament. Read some of the "one anothers" and put them into action.

Pick up a summer serving guide from the information counters.

Share your stories of Loving Generously and connect on twitter at **#one2a**



One to Another