
CHAPTER 2

BE INTENTIONAL ABOUT BEING PHILANTHROPIC WITH ONE ANOTHER



"Life is filled with enough drains; choose to be a fountain."

—*The Forge* often think of giving money to

W charity or when we hear the word "philanthropy," we helping those in need. However, at its core, philanthropy is about generosity—the act of giving freely of yourself for the benefit of others. In marriage, this extends beyond material gifts; it encompasses being generous with your time, energy, love, and support.

Just as God gave His Son to us—a profound act of love and generosity—we are called to embody that same spirit of giving in our relationships. This model of love should be at the heart of our marriages.

Being philanthropic in marriage isn't about grand gestures or lavish gifts; it's about the everyday acts of kindness, thoughtfulness, and sacrifice that demonstrate to one another that they are a priority. Whether it's helping with household chores, listening when your partner needs to

talk, or making an extra effort to show love, every act of generosity strengthens your bond.

One of the Bible's fundamental principles is that of sowing and reaping. As stated in 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (AMP), "He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows generously will also reap generously." This principle applies to all aspects of life, including marriage. When you give generously to one another—through love, patience, or acts of service—you will witness the fruits of that generosity in your relationship.

However, being philanthropic in marriage is not about giving with the expectation of receiving something in return. It's about giving from a place of love, with a cheerful heart, as God loves a cheerful giver. When you approach your relationship with this mindset, the rewards come naturally. Your partner will feel loved, valued, and cared for, which encourages them to reciprocate in kind.

Why Generosity is Essential for a Healthy Marriage

Marriages that thrive are built on selflessness and generosity. When you give to one another, you're conveying the message: "I see you. I value you. Your happiness and well-

being are important to me." Generosity fosters trust, closeness, and emotional intimacy.

Conversely, when you withhold from one another—whether it's affection, time, or support—you create distance and tension. A marriage where both partners are stingy with love and attention will struggle to flourish. In contrast, a marriage where generosity flows freely will thrive, even during challenging times.

Think of your marriage as a garden. If you only water it occasionally, it may survive but will never truly flourish. However, if you consistently tend to it—giving it the care and attention it needs—it will grow strong, healthy, and beautiful. Similarly, being intentional about generosity in your marriage is an investment in its health and strength.

Practical Ways to Be Philanthropic in Your Marriage

Being philanthropic in your marriage means being intentional about how you give to one another. Here are some practical ways to show generosity in your relationship:

- I. **Give Your Time:** One of the greatest gifts you can offer one another is your time. In today's fast-paced world, it's easy to get caught up in work, errands, and

distractions. However, being generous with your time signals to your partner that they are a priority. Schedule regular moments to be fully present together—be it a date night, a walk, or simply sitting together to talk.

- II. **Offer Words of Affirmation:** Words hold immense power; they can build up or tear down. Be intentional about speaking life into each other. Compliment, encourage, and express gratitude for your partner's actions. A simple "thank you" or "I appreciate you" can make a world of difference in helping your partner feel valued.
- III. **Serve Them in Practical Ways:** Acts of service are tangible expressions of love and generosity. Look for opportunities to help your partner—whether it's cooking a meal, assisting with household chores, or running errands. These small gestures show that you prioritize their needs above your own.
- IV. **Be Generous with Physical Affection:** Physical touch is a vital aspect of marriage. Don't hesitate to show affection—whether through hugs, kisses, or holding hands. Physical intimacy fosters connection and strengthens your bond. Be intentional about expressing affection, even in small ways.

- V. **Give Emotional Support:** Marriage is a partnership, and part of that is providing emotional support. When your partner faces challenges, be generous with your empathy, patience, and encouragement. Listen without judgment, offer a shoulder to lean on, and affirm that you're in their corner.
- VI. **Share Your Resources:** Generosity also means being open-handed with your resources. Whether it's money, time, or possessions, avoid keeping score. Share freely, recognizing that what's yours is also theirs. When both partners embrace this mindset, unity and partnership are fostered.

Reflection Questions

- a. In what ways have you been philanthropic with one another recently? How can you increase the generosity of your relationship?
- b. Are there areas where you've been withholding from each other—be it time, affection, or emotional support? What steps can you take to change that?

- c. Recall a time when your partner was philanthropic toward you. How did it make you feel? How can you replicate that feeling in your actions?
- d. What practical ways can you show generosity to one another in the coming week?

- I. to provide for our family," can go a long way in making your partner feel valued.
- II. **Public Praise:** Don't hesitate to praise your spouse in front of others. Whether complimenting them at a family gathering or celebrating their achievements on social media, public praise shows that you're proud of one another and honours them in front of others.
- III. **Written Notes:** Written words can have a lasting impact. Leave little notes of appreciation or write heartfelt letters expressing your gratitude for who they are and what they do.
- IV. **Praise Their Efforts, Not Just the Results:** Recognize your partner's efforts, even when the results aren't perfect. Whether they tried something new or went out of their way to make you happy, praising their effort encourages them to keep trying.
- V. **Be Specific:** Instead of vague compliments, be specific in your praise. For example, instead of saying, "You're great," say, "I love how you always take time to listen when I've had a tough day." Specific praise feels more meaningful and personal.