

# Straight Talk

Paul was not one to pull punches when talking to the churches he founded. In 2 Corinthians 8:7-15, Paul confronted the church at Corinth about their lack of follow through in contributing to the offering for needy believers.

We have attempted to make Paul's words a little blunter while keeping their original meaning. Below you will find a loose paraphrase of each of the nine verses of this text. Compare the paraphrases verse by verse, then assemble them in order. When you are done, you should have a very pointed paraphrase of 2 Corinthians 8:7-15!

## Paraphrased verses (not in order):

*Now it is time to put up or shut up.*

*Don't tell me you are broke. Just give what you can.*

*Last year, you made some big promises about your giving.*

*You think you are super Christians? Then show it by super generosity!*

*After all, isn't the essence of our faith that Jesus gave up everything for us?*

*Who knows? Those you help today may be the ones who will help you out tomorrow.*

*We are not trying to bleed you dry. We just want you to be generous with what you have.*

*Isn't it a basic economic principle that God gives us exactly what we need exactly when we need it?*

*Let's see how generous you are by comparing your giving with that of those who have far less than you do.*

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