

ACTON 2019: “The Roots of Christian Philanthropy”
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Introduction:

I. Classical Roots of Philanthropy
(following McGuckin and Sulek)

- usage in ancient society:
- examples of civic generosity
- reasons for civic generosity

II. Ideology of Philanthropy
(following McGuckin, Sulek and Laing)

- philosophical connotations
- theological transformations

III. The Christian Roots of Philanthropy
(following McGuckin)

- Gregory of Nazianzus, Oration 14, “On the Love of the Poor”
- John Chrysostom, *On Wealth and Poverty* (Sermons on Lazarus and the rich man)

IV. Flourishing of Christian Philanthropy in the Family Tree
(Laing on Gregory of Nyssa’s *Life of Macrina*)

A. Gregory of Nyssa, the theologian, bishop, and author

B. Spiritual heritage of prior generations of Cappadocians

C. Macrina’s domestic monastery/ women’s group home

D. Basil’s monastery/ hospital (*Basileion*)

E. Naucratus’s elder care ministry

F. Peter of Sebaste’s community hunger relief