

The Kind of Church God Builds **A Church That Helps the Poor**

I. Introduction

- A. Deut. 15:11 (NLT)
- B. Prov. 19:17 (NAS)
- C. Isaiah 58:7, 10 (NLT)
- D. Luke 4:18a (NLT)
- E. Acts 20:35 (NLT)
- F. James 1:27 (NAS)
- G. I John 3:16-18 (NLT)

II. Who Are the Poor?

- A. Foreigners, orphans, and widows.
- B. Today: the "poor" are the homeless, hungry, the uninsured, and the unborn.

III. What the Bible Teaches About Wealth

- A. I Tim. 6:17-19 (NAS)

IV. Why Should We Help the Poor?

- A. Because we were poor and God helped us.
- B. Because God identifies with the poor.
- C. Because God defends the poor.
- D. Because God won't hear our prayers if we don't.
- E. Because we can't call ourselves Christians if we don't.
- F. Because caring for the poor leads to blessing and eternal rewards.
 - 1. Prov. 22:9 (NLT)
 - 2. Luke 12:33 (NLT)
- G. Because caring for the poor is what good people do.
 - 1. Acts 9:36 (NLT)
- H. Because God commands us to.
 - 1. Luke 10:36-37 (NLT)

V. What Are the Causes of Poverty?

- A. Self- indulgence
- B. Laziness
 - 1. Prov. 10:4 (NLT)
 - 2. Prov. 20:4 (NLT)
- C. Catastrophes
- D. Oppression and injustice
- E. Historic Racism
- F. Illness
- G. Lack of Education
- H. Insufficient natural resources

VI. What Keeps Us From Helping the Poor?

- A. We feel inadequate.
- B. We're not intentional about it.

VII. What Can We Do to Help the Poor?

- A. Read and study about poverty.
- B. Get to know someone in need.
- C. Plan to give to the poor.
- D. Be a Christian voice in your workplace.
- E. Fill a Food Bank bag regularly.
- F. Serve in one of our Compassion ministries.

VIII. Conclusion

Upcoming Messages:

11/14-15/ 2009 "A Church of Refuge"
11/21-22/2009 "A Church That Is Missional"
11/28-29/2009 "A Church That Fosters Community"
12/5-6/2009 "A Church That Fosters Community (Part 2)"
12/19-20/2009 "A Church of Hospitality"