

Xenos Christian Fellowship
Christian Ministry 3
Practical Issues
Philosophy for Christian Community Development

God is concerned that His people help the poor:

- * In His OT law (Deut. 15:1-15).
- * In His character (Prov. 14:31).
- * In Christ's example (Lk. 4:18; 15:13-14).
- * In NT commands (1 Jn. 3:16-17; Jms 1:27; 2:1-4, 14-17; 5:4).

God is concerned that the church help the poor:

- * It's not the responsibility of the government to represent God's concern for the poor (they still are responsible to help the poor but do not share the gospel).
- * It is the responsibility of Christians to be ambassadors to represent God on earth (Jn 14:12, 2 Cor 5:20)

The church should serve the needs of the poor comprehensively:

- * Helping the person physically and spiritually (1 Jn 3:15-17).
- * Demonstrating love and proclaiming the Gospel.
- * Creating receptivity to the Gospel through service.
- * Focusing some of its resources and services on the poor.
- * Teaching the poor self sufficiency (2 Th 3:10).
- * Helping the poor rise up out of their situation (Ja 2:15-17).

The church should be concerned about the whole cycle of poverty:

- Long term solutions should be sought after (Deut. 15:1-15).
- * Family disintegration.
 - * Affordable and livable housing.
 - * Lack of educational opportunities.
 - * Lack of job opportunities.
 - * Health Care.

The church should develop relationships in the community of need (Jn. 17:15):

- * Providing acceptance, warmth, friendship, and fellowship.
- * Providing role models and mentors.
- * Encouraging those who become self sufficient to stay involved in their community.