

Introduction

Poverty is deprivation of common necessities that determine the quality of life, including food, clothing, shelter and safe drinking water, and may also include the deprivation of opportunities to learn, to obtain better employment to escape poverty, and/or to enjoy the respect of fellow citizens.

Ongoing debate

Absolute poverty (1.3 billion people)

Relative poverty views poverty as socially defined and dependent on social context.

In the US, “to be poor is to be deprived of those goods and services and pleasures which others around us take for granted.”

Do you despise the poor?

Human Nature

The cast of characters

1. Poor
2. Neighbor
3. Rich
4. Friends

The observations

1. The poor man is hated even by his own neighbor.
2. The rich man has many friends.

God’s Perspective

1. He who belittles his poor neighbor sins.

“despises”

“sin”

2. He who has mercy on the poor is happy.

“mercy”

“happy”

The Doctrine of The Poor

1. Don’t charge interest to the poor.
2. Treat him like everyone else in court.
3. Let the poor share in your bounty.
4. Help those who fall on hard times.
5. Be generous toward the poor.
 - a. Reality
 - b. Actions
 - c. Warning
 - d. Command

Do you despise the poor?

1. Our sin nature encourages us to despise the poor.
2. Our wealth separates us from the poor.
3. We are uncomfortable around the poor.
But -
4. God loves and protects the poor.
5. God commands us to be generous to the poor.
6. God condemns those who despise the poor.

Do you despise the poor?