

Wealth, Poverty and Social Justice

"He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" Micah 6:8

Walk Humbly - Conviction for the Rich

- **Hard work and wise choices are rewarded**
 - Proverbs 20:4 - *"The sluggard does not plow after the autumn, so he begs during the harvest and has nothing."*
 - Proverbs 24:33-34 - *"A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, Then your poverty will come as a robber and your want like an armed man."*
 - Other related passages: Proverbs 13:18; 21:20; 22:7; Luke 16:10-11; Ephesians 4:28
- **The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil**
 - 1 Timothy 6:9-10 - *"But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."*
 - Other related passages: Hebrews 13:5; Matthew 6:24
- **Usury and inflated interest is considered unfair**
 - Leviticus 25:35-37 - *"Now in case a countryman of yours becomes poor and his means with regard to you falter, then you are to sustain him, like a stranger or a sojourner that he may live with you. Do not take usurious interest from him, but revere your God, that your countryman may live with you. You shall not give him your silver at interest, nor your food for gain."*
 - Deuteronomy 15:1 - *"At the end of every seven years you shall grant a remission of debts."*
 - Other related passages: Deuteronomy 15:2-11; Psalm 112:5-6; Luke 6:34-35
- **Integrity matters more than the accumulation of wealth**
 - Proverbs 22:1 - *"A good name is to be more desired than great wealth, Favor is better than silver and gold."*
 - Proverbs 28:6 - *"Better is the poor who walks in his integrity than he who is crooked though he be rich."*
 - Other related passage: Luke 21:1-4

Love Kindness - Care for the Poor

- Matthew 26:10-11 - *"But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, 'Why do you bother the woman? For she has done a good deed to Me. For you always have the poor with you; but you do not always have Me.'"*
- Deuteronomy 15:11 - *"For the poor will never cease to be in the land; therefore I command you, saying, 'You shall freely open your hand to your brother, to your needy and poor in your land.'"*
- Proverbs 28:27 - *"He who gives to the poor will never want, but he who shuts his eyes will have many curses."*
- Acts 20:35 - *"In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"*
- Proverbs 14:31 - *"He who oppresses the poor taunts his Maker, but he who is gracious to the needy honors Him."*
- Other related passages: Proverbs 17:5; 19:17; 22:16; 29:7; Hebrews 13:16

Do Justice - Close the gaps of social services

- Isaiah 1:17 - *“Learn to do good; Seek justice, Reprove the ruthless, Defend the orphan, Plead for the widow.”*
- Luke 11:42 - *“But woe to you Pharisees! For you pay tithes of mint and rue and every kind of garden herb, and yet disregard justice and the love of God; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.”*
- Other related passages: Leviticus 19:9-18; Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 82:3; Isaiah 61:8; Amos 5:21-24

How can we understand the roles of the church and of government in serving the poor?

David Benavides, Executive Director of KidWorks and Member of Santa Ana City Council

LifeGroup Discussion:

1. How do you feel about being called rich? Do you feel rich? How does that impact the way you view your responsibility to serve the poor and marginalized?
2. Which point of “Conviction for the Rich” impacted you most? How do you want to grow in that area?
3. What steps can we take as a group to serve the poor in greater and more intentional ways?

Next Steps:

1. **Identify one thing** you can do to minister to the poor every month.
2. Visit the **KidWorks table** in the lobby to find out ways you can serve kids in Santa Ana.
3. Visit the **Safe Families for Children** table in the lobby to find out ways you can serve families in need.
4. Visit the **NeighborGood** table in the lobby to volunteer to serve at this event on November 19. You can also find out more and register online today at calvarylife.org/good
5. Go to the **Common Ground Conversation this Wednesday, October 19 at 7pm in Fellowship Hall** with David Benavides (KidWorks), Karen Bergstrom (Safe Families) and Lee DeLeon (Templo Calvario CDC).