



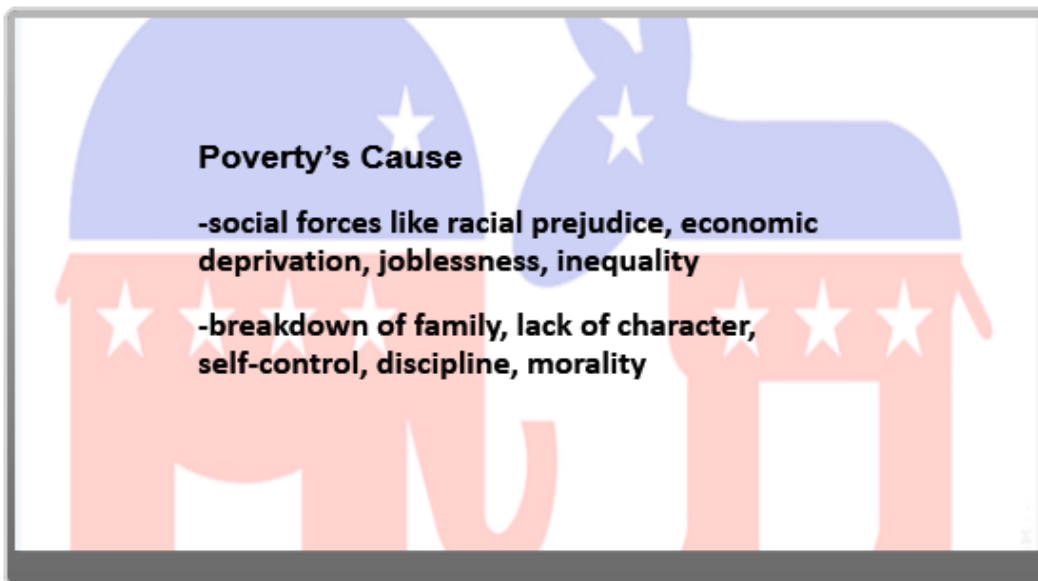
Micah 6:8

**He has told you, O man, what is good; and
what does the LORD require of you but to
do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?**

Deuteronomy 15:7-8

If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, but you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be.

God cares about actions but also the heart motives behind the actions.



Poverty's Cause

- social forces like racial prejudice, economic deprivation, joblessness, inequality
- breakdown of family, lack of character, self-control, discipline, morality



Poverty's Solution

- primarily through progressive taxation and redistribution by the state
- primarily through voluntary, private giving

John 13:34-35

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

**THEY WILL
KNOW
WE ARE
CHRISTIANS
BY OUR T-SHIRTS**



**Our relationship with each other is
the criterion the world uses to judge
whether our message is truthful.
Christian community is the
final apologetic.**

Francis Schaeffer

Acts 2:42-47

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all,

Acts 2:42-47

And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

**When we have Christ in common,
we have all things in common.**

**Fellowship (*koinonia* in Greek)-
close mutual association,
sharing, participation**

**Fellowship-participating together in the life and truth made possible by the Holy Spirit through our union with Christ.
Fellowship is sharing something in common on the deepest possible level of human relationship-our experience of God himself.**

John Loftness

***Tzadeqah*-being just or being righteous
Being right with God and therefore committed to putting right all other relationships in life.**

Alec Motyer

What does fellowship look like?

**Be at peace with each other (Mk.
9:50)**

What does fellowship look like?

Rejoice with one another (Rom. 12:15)

What does fellowship look like?

Weep with one another (Rom. 12:15)

What does fellowship look like?

Serve one another (Gal. 5:13)

What does fellowship look like?

Carry one another's burdens (Gal. 6:2)

What does fellowship look like?

Forgive one another (Eph. 4:32)

What does fellowship look like?

Confess your sins to one another (James 5:16)

What does fellowship look like?

Pray for one another (James 5:16)

What does fellowship look like?

Bear with one another (Col. 3:13)

**Are we called to GO to church,
or to BE the church?**

Hebrews 10:24

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Ephesians 2:13-14

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility...

**Community isn't THE mission,
but we should be a community
on a mission.**