



Loving Our Neighbors Why Should I Care about the Poor?

1. Implementing our soul care initiatives to achieve deeper friendships within our church family.
2. As individual church members, growing in our ability to build stronger relationships with those who live right around us.
3. As a church family, developing our "parish mentality" to especially serve those who live near our two ministry campuses.
4. Launching our Faith Community Development Corporation to serve urban neighborhoods with excellence.
5. Constructing the first phase of our Senior Living Community.

5 reasons to treat those who are poor with compassion and grace

"Perhaps the most arresting feature of Proverbs 10:1-24:23 is what seems a complete lack of structure of arrangement in the collection of proverbs. They appear to have been assembled all together at random."
(Duane Garrett, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, vol. 14, The New American Commentary)

I. Because Poverty is Often Accompanied by Loneliness

Proverbs 14:20 - *The poor is hated even by his own neighbor, but those who love the rich are many.*

Proverbs 19:4 - *Wealth adds many friends, but a poor man is separated from his friend.*

Proverbs 19:6-7 - *Many will seek the favor of a generous man, and every man is a friend to him who gives gifts. All the brothers of a poor man hate him; how much more do his friends abandon him! He pursues them with words, but they are gone.*

II. Because Looking Down on Others Because of their Poverty is Sin

Proverbs 14:21 - *He who despises his neighbor sins...*

2 Corinthians 8:9 - *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.*

Matthew 5:3 - *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

III. Because Being Gracious to the Poor Brings Joy

Proverbs 14:21 - *Happy is he who is gracious to the poor...*

IV. Because Your Work Ethic Could be a Blessing to Others

Proverbs 14:23 - *In all labor there is profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.*

Proverbs 10:4 - *Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth.*

Proverbs 20:13 - *Do not love sleep or you will grow poor; stay awake and you will have food to spare.*

Proverbs 23:21 - *...for drunkards and gluttons become poor, and drowsiness clothes them in rags.*

Philippians 2:12-13 - *Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.*

Proverbs 14:23a - *In all labor there is profit*

Proverbs 14:23b - *But mere talk leads only to poverty*

V. Because We Would Never Want to Taunt His Maker

Proverbs 14:31 - *He who oppresses the poor taunts his Maker, but he who is gracious to the needy honors Him.*

"To ridicule what God made is to ridicule God Himself" (The NET Bible First Edition Notes)