

# MARINERS CHURCH



## Uncomfortably Poor

7/19/2020

### What is my responsibility as a follower of Jesus to those who are poor?

"Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors Him." (Proverbs 14:31, ESV)

"If anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Let us not love in word and talk but in deed and in truth." (1 John 3:17, 18, ESV)

## Everyone is Created in God's Image

"God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." (Genesis 1:27, ESV)

## Sin brings Poverty into the World.

When God's people were coming out of a desperate situation where they were wandering in the wilderness for 40 years God told them, "there will be no poor among you; for the Lord will bless you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance to possess if only you will strictly obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all this commandment." (Deuteronomy 15:4-5, ESV)

- **Laziness:** "A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man." (Proverbs 6:10, 11, ESV)

- **Injustice:** "The fallow ground of the poor would yield much food, but it is swept away from injustice." (Proverbs 13:23)

- **Wrong Choices:** "The drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, and slumber will clothe them with rags." (Proverbs 23:21, ESV)

- **Greed and Selfishness:** "The wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you..." (James 5:4, ESV)

## What is God's solution for Poverty?

"Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute." (Psalm 82:3, ESV)



MarinersCC.org

/marinerscc

@MarinersHMB

@MarinersHMB

MarinersHMB

"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?" (Micah 6:8, ESV)

## How do we bring the Gospel message to the Poor in the World?

- **With Compassion:** "If anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?" (1 John 3:17, ESV)

"There will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.'" (Deuteronomy 15:11, ESV)

- **Empower their Dignity:** "Let the poor among you harvest..." (Exodus 23:10, NIV)

- **Bring Relief and Restoration:** "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this; to visit orphans and widows in their affliction." (James 1:27, ESV)

- **The best way to bring the Gospel to the poor is through Relationship**  
The poor are not a project they are people. Created in the image of God.

### For your LifeGroup discussion...

- 1) Do you agree that all humanity is created in the image of God? If not, who is & who isn't?
- 2) God says that poverty is my problem. Of the 4 things listed in the message (laziness, injustice, bad choices, greed/selfishness), which areas do you struggle with/experience most often?
- 3) In what ways are you overcoming poverty in your own life? How are you using work, creativity, God's image?
- 4) Are there times when you want to respond to poverty but you're unsure how to help? Did you hear anything in this message that may encourage you to get involved?
- 5) God's command for His people is to be open-handed to the poor. How uncomfortable is that for you to hear? How likely are you to respond to God's Word in this area?