



BENEVOLENCE

HELPING THOSE IN NEED

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**A BIBLICAL
VIEW**

What does the Bible say about the poor?

The Bible makes it clear that since the Fall, there will always be people who are poor and in need.

Deuteronomy 15:10-11

Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to. There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore, I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land.

Matthew 26:11

The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me [Jesus].

Proverbs 21:13

If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered.

What does the Bible say about giving?

Giving should come from the heart.
The love of Christ should motivate people to give.
Scripture shows us how to give.
See 2 Corinthians 9:7

All Christians are admonished to give and care for the people of the church. We as believers should use our gifts to help and provide for others. If someone does not provide for his own family for instance, he is worse than an unbeliever.
See 1 Timothy 5:8, Psalm 112:9

The Church: What is her responsibility?

The Bible is clear that the Church is to help fellow believers with her resources, and equip believers to do the work of the ministry.

Matthew 25:37-40

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’”

Acts 2:44-45

All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.

2 Thessalonians 3:10

For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “If a man will not work, he shall not eat.”

1 Timothy 5:9-16

No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up her children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the saints, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds. As for younger widows, do not put them on such a list. For when their sensual desires overcome their dedication to Christ, they want to marry. Thus they bring judgment on themselves, because they have broken their first pledge. Besides, they get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they become idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying things they ought not to. So I counsel younger widows to marry, to have children, to manage their homes and to give the enemy no opportunity for slander. Some have in fact already turned away to follow Satan. If any woman who is a believer has widows in her family, she should help them and not let the church be burdened with them, so that the church can help those widows who are really in need.

Ephesians 4:11-13

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we will all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Clearly, the Church is to be compassionate and her first priority is to take care of the faithful saints.

The individual Christian: What is their responsibility?

See 1 Timothy 5:9-16 on previous page

James 2:15-17

Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

1 John 3:17

If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?

Galatians 6:10

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Christians are to have love among themselves and for the world.

John 13:35

By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

Luke 6:35

But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.



Domestic & Family Violence

Interface Battered Women's Shelter 1.800.339.9597

Employment Services / Job Training

California Conservation Corps (18-23 year olds) 805.484.4345

Jobs Corps (16-24 year olds) 805.486.0081

Food

Food Share (countywide food bank information) 805.983.7100

Care and Share 805.522.5676

5924 Los Angeles Ave., Simi Valley

Monday thru Friday: 10am - 3pm

Catholic Charities

80 E. Hillcrest Dr. #120, Thousand Oaks

805.496.1113

609 Fitch Ave., Moorpark (& Simi Valley)

805.589.0720

Health Services

Simi Free Clinic 805.522.3733

2060 Tapo St., Simi Valley

Homeless Shelters

Catholic Charities (closed Fridays)

80 E. Hillcrest Dr. #120, Thousand Oaks

805.496.1113

609 Fitch Ave., Moorpark (& Simi Valley)

805.529.0720

Emergency Shelter Program (mentally ill)

805.289.1709

801 Poinsettia Place, Ventura

HSA Homeless Services & Referral

805.987.6712

Lutheran Social Services

805.497.6207

80 E. Hillcrest Dr. #101, Thousand Oaks

Salvation Army

805.527.1070

5924 Los Angeles Ave. #7, Simi Valley

Samaritan Center (mornings)

805.579.9166

280 Royal Ave., Simi Valley

Legal Assistance

Alternative Legal Services 435 Eileen St., Simi Valley	805.581.9136
Simi Valley Free Clinic 2060 Tapo St., Simi Valley	805.522.3733

Shelters

For Homeless, Mentally Ill:

Emergency Shelter Program	805.289.1709
Turning Point Foundation Shelter Program	805.652.2151

Winter

Conejo Valley Winter Shelter (December - March)	805.497.6207
Simi Valley Winter Shelter "PADS" (November - March) call 9am - 11am	805.579.9166
Rescue Mission (year round; men only) 234 E. 6th St., Oxnard	805.487.1234

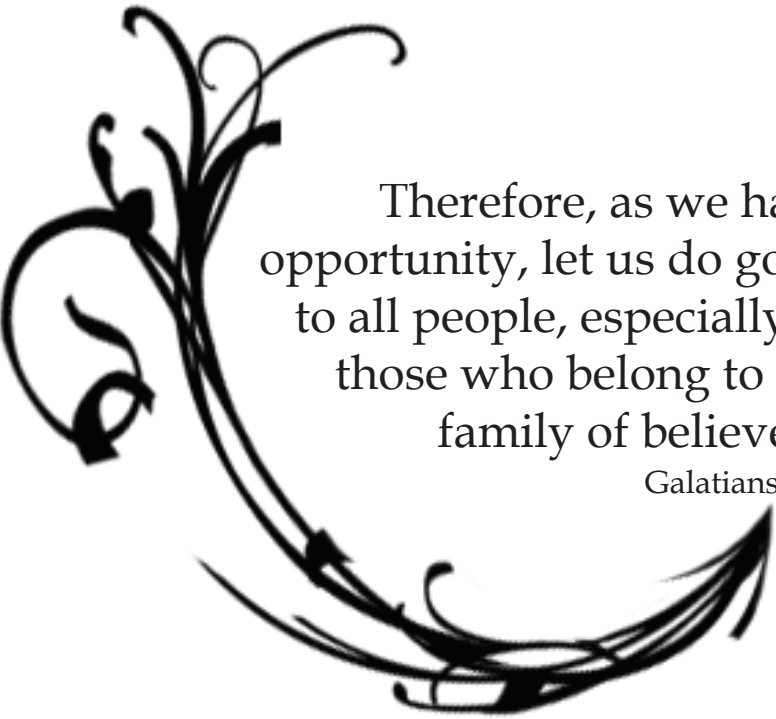
Showers / Laundry - mornings only

Samaritan Center 280 Royal Ave., Simi Valley	805.579.9166
Lutheran Social Services 80 E. Hillcrest Dr. #101, Thousand Oaks	805.497.6207

Free Items

FreeCycle
www.freecycle.org

Craigslist
<http://ventura.craigslist.org/>



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(NIV)

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