

HOW TO NEIGHBOR

August 21, 2016

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Empowering the Poor

“... ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’

Matthew 25:40 (NLT)

If you help the poor, you are lending to the LORD—and he will repay you!

Proverbs 19:17 (NLT)

¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

1 John 3:17-18 (NIV11)

What is Poverty?

- Most Americans define poverty as a lack of something _____.
- The truly poor define poverty as a _____.
- The root of all poverty is _____.

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Luke 4:18-19 (NRSV)

We Are Called

1. To _____ others not _____ others.
 - Relief: immediate, temporary help during and after a crisis.
 - Restoration: long-term relationship to rebuild wholeness.
2. To _____ with people not _____ people.
3. To reach _____ not reach _____.

My Next Step Today Is To...

- Memorize and/or meditate on 1 John 3:17-18
- Seek to build meaningful relationships with people who are experiencing poverty.
- Make a difference in other's lives by:
 - Serving with the Hope House Food Bank
 - Serving with Hope 21 clothing ministry
 - Volunteering at _____
- Accept Jesus, the one who loved me and died for me, as my Savior and Lord