

EMPOWERING THE POOR
How To Neighbor – Part 2
August 30, 2026

Luke 10:27 (NIV) *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, Love your neighbor as yourself.”*

Jesus didn’t say WHO to neighbor.
He only showed us HOW to neighbor.

Matthew 25:40 (NIV) *“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of Mine, you did for Me.”*

Proverbs 19:17 (NLT) *“If you help the poor, you are lending to the Lord—and He will repay you!”*

1 John 3:17-18 (NIV) *“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.”*

James 2:16-17 (NIV) *“If one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”*

What Is Poverty?

- **Most Americans define poverty as a lack of something material.**
- **The truly poor define poverty as a mindset.**
- **The root of all poverty is brokenness.**

Luke 4:18-19 (NIV) *“The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed Me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, ¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”*

We Are Called...

- 1. To serve others... not to save others.**

2 Corinthians 8:9 (NIV) *“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.”*

- **Relief** is immediate temporary help during and after a crisis.
- **Restoration** is a long-term relationship to help rebuild wholeness.

Mark 10:17b (NIV) *“What must I do to inherit eternal life?”*

Matthew 19:17b-19 (NIV) *“If you want to enter life, keep the commandments. ¹⁸ ‘Which ones?’ he inquired.*

Jesus replied, ‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, ¹⁹ honor your father and mother,’ and ‘love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Mark 10:21 (NIV) *“Jesus looked at him and loved him. ‘One thing you lack,’ He said. ‘Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me.’”*

Mark 10:22-23 (NIV) *“At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.*

²³ Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, ‘How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!’”

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NIV) *“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.*

¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.¹⁹ In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.”

2. To relate with people... not rescue people.

Proverbs 22:2 (NIV) *“Rich and poor have this in common: The Lord is the Maker of them all.”*

3. To reach out... not reach down.

1 Corinthians 13:3 (NIV) *“If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.”*

Psalms 140:12 (NIV) *“I know that the Lord secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy.”*