

Poverty in Proverbs > 100 References about Wealth & Poverty

- Many Proverbs are devoted to describing the harsh realities of poverty = its existence and its characteristics
- Many Proverbs describe the poor in contrast to the wealthy
- In Proverbs, the Hebrew word for "poor" generally refers to the lack of material and/or social resources
- Given the terrible effects and characteristics of poverty, many Proverbs contain admonitions on how to avoid it
- Many proverbs detail negative consequences and positive rewards for how the poor are treated

What does the Bible say is our responsibility to the poor?

"Those who **oppress** [actions] the poor insult their Maker, but helping the poor honors him." Proverbs 14:31

"Those who **mock** [attitude] the poor insult their Maker; those who rejoice at the misfortune of others will be punished." Proverbs 17:5

"God's people cannot be indifferent toward those in need because His expectations for us in regard to taking care of the poor are woven throughout the entirety of Scripture." GW

"Our treatment of the poor needs to be based upon the fact that they have been made in the image of God and are therefore worthy of dignity and respect. To deny them the treatment that each and every human being deserves is not just stinginess, it is an insult and an offense to the Creator... It is not enough to simply not oppress the poor. Proverbs, along with the rest of Scripture, seems to mandate advocating for their justice." Joshua Steele (author, scholar, and Anglican priest)

- God commands us to _____ generously
"Blessed are those who are generous, because they feed the poor." Proverbs 22:9

"Give generously to the poor, not grudgingly, for the Lord your God will bless you in everything you do. There will always be

some in the land who are poor. That is why I am commanding you to share freely with the poor and with other Israelites in need." Deuteronomy 15:10-11

- God commands us to _____ loudly
"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed. Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless, and see that they get justice." Proverbs 31:8-9
- God commands us to _____ visibly
"It is a sin to belittle one's neighbor; blessed are those who help the poor." Proverbs 14:21
"If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person?" 1 John 3:17

PROVERBS 19:18 [NLT]

"If you help the poor, you are lending to the Lord – and he will repay ["reward"] you!"

"What we give and do for the poor is noticed by God." GW

1. Stinginess results in _____
"Those who shut their ears to the cries of the poor will be ignored in their own time of need." Proverbs 21:13
2. Generosity results in _____
"Blessed are those who are generous, because they feed the poor." Proverbs 22:9
3. Generosity is an act of _____ and _____
"Whoever gives to the poor will lack nothing, but those who close their eyes to poverty will be cursed." Prov. 28:27
"Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back." Luke 6:38

[Jesus] "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!" Matt. 25:40