

Ten Biblical principles about money and wealth
A survey of Scripture
Principle 8. Care for the poor, weak, oppressed, and needy

1. Principle 8. Care for the poor, weak, oppressed, and needy
2. The Bible reveals God's deep care and concern for the needy.
 - i. The goal of our study is a transformed heart
3. The underlying theme of this seminar
 - i. God wants our heart
 - b. The purpose of my instruction is that all believers would be filled with love that comes from a pure heart, a clear conscience, and genuine faith. 1 Timothy 1:5 (NLT)
4. Principle #8. Care for the poor, the weak, the oppressed, and the needy
 - i. Outline
 - b. Key Bible passages
 - c. The continuum of wealth
 - d. Who are the underclass?
 - e. 5 Biblical truths about poverty
 - f. God's special relationship with the poor
 - g. 46 blessings God gives freely to all
 - h. 6 Scriptural warnings against mistreatment of the poor
 - i. 21 excuses for mistreating the poor
 - j. 6 responsibilities that Christians have towards the poor
 - k. 10 responsibilities the poor have towards themselves
 - l. 17 strategies for achieving poverty
5. Key Bible passages
 - a. Those who oppress the poor insult their Maker, but helping the poor honors him. Proverbs 14:31
 - b. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. James 1:27
 - c. Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? James 2:5
6. The continuum of wealth
 - i. Poverty to riches
 - b. Wealth may be thought of as a continuum along a line from poverty to riches
 - c. The wealth of every person on earth falls somewhere on this line
 - d. At the left end of the line, we have utter destitution or extreme poverty experienced by many people. We may put a blind beggar or Mother Teresa here.
 - e. At the other end of the line, we have unfathomable riches possessed by few people, such as the wealth possessed by Bill Gates (\$79B; computers), Amancio Ortega (\$67B; telecom), and Mukesh Ambani (\$23B; oil, telecom)
7. Let's consider the needy
 - i. They have little material wealth, if any at all
8. Who are the needy?

9. The needy
 - i. A partial list
 - b. Poor
 - c. Weak
 - d. Hungry
 - e. Homeless
 - f. Abused
 - g. Misused
 - h. Neglected
 - i. Persecuted
 - j. Oppressed
 - k. Sick
 - l. Unjustly imprisoned
 - m. Social outcasts
10. Five important truths about poverty
11. 1. Realize that it is God who ultimately decides our financial strength
 - a. The LORD makes some poor and others rich; he brings some down and lifts others up. 1 Samuel 2:7-8 (NLT)
12. 2. God may have a redemptive purpose in visiting poverty on us
 - a. To humble us
 - b. To teach us to trust him for our needs
 - c. To let us bear the consequences of our own decisions and actions
 - d. To teach us gratitude for what we have (or had)
 - e. To bring him glory through praise and thanksgiving in spite of our circumstances
 - f. To test the genuineness of our faith
 - g. There may be other reasons
13. 3. God's ultimate desire is to lift us out of dependency on others
 - a. The LORD makes some poor and others rich; he brings some down and lifts others up. He lifts the poor from the dust and the needy from the garbage dump. He sets them among princes, placing them in seats of honor. For all the earth is the LORD's, and he has set the world in order. 1 Samuel 2:7-8 (NLT)
14. 4. God wants his people to care for the poor and needy
 - a. If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. 1 Timothy 5:8
 - b. "No, this is the kind of fasting I want: Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people. Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help. Isaiah 58:6-7 (NLT)
15. 5. God may give some the grace to live simply for the sake of the kingdom
 - a. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. 2 Corinthians 8:9
16. Questions for discussion
 - a. Does the Biblical worldview regarding poverty differentiate between the saved and unsaved? In what ways are they similar and in what ways are they different?

- b. Have you known wealthy people who voluntarily lived a very simple lifestyle so they could use their abundance of resources for the sake of the kingdom?
- 17. God has a special relationship with the poor and needy
 - i. 10 Scriptures which reveal His heart
- 18. 1. God honors them
 - a. The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position. James 1:9
- 19. 2. God defends them and will crush those who rob or exploit them
 - a. Do not rob the poor, because he is poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate, for the LORD will plead their cause and rob of life those who rob them. Proverbs 22:22-23 (ESV)
 - b. Those who shut their ears to the cries of the poor will be ignored in their own time of need. Proverbs 21:13 (NLT)
- 20. 3. God may give the poor believer a treasure of faith
 - a. Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? James 2:5
- 21. 4. God may give them special discernment
 - a. Rich people may think they are wise, but a poor person with discernment can see right through them. Proverbs 28:11 (NLT)
- 22. 5. God freely gives them all they need to satisfy their souls
 - a. "Is anyone thirsty? Come and drink— even if you have no money! Come, take your choice of wine or milk— it's all free! Isaiah 55:1 (NLT)
- 23. 6. They may experience deep joy and be very generous
 - a. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. 2 Corinthians 8:2
- 24. 7. Poor believers are also freely given God's spiritual gifts
 - a. When Simon saw that the Spirit was given when the apostles laid their hands on people, he offered them money to buy this power. "Let me have this power, too," he exclaimed, "so that when I lay my hands on people, they will receive the Holy Spirit!" But Peter replied, "May your money be destroyed with you for thinking God's gift can be bought! Acts 8:18-20 (NLT)
- 25. 8. They will experience God's deliverance
 - a. For he will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help Psalm 72:12
 - b. "Because of the oppression of the weak and the groaning of the needy, I will now arise," says the LORD. "I will protect them from those who malign them." Psalm 12:5
- 26. 9. They are given full and free access to the true riches
 - a. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. 2 Corinthians 8:9
- 27. 10. They have all the money needed to inherit eternal life
 - a. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift! 2 Corinthians 9:15 (NASB)
 - b. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from

yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

28. God's wonderful plan of salvation
 - a. Recognize that we are sinful and need God's forgiveness
 - b. Believe that God sent us his only Son Jesus to pay the penalty for our sin through his death on the cross
 - c. Turn from our sin and receive Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, trusting in his redemptive sacrifice to make us righteous in God's sight -
29. When we place our faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, God's Spirit enters our lives and we become a child of God
 - a. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together. Romans 8:15
30. Assurance of salvation
 - a. And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life. I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life. 1 John 5:11-13(NLT)
31. Quiz
 - i. Multiple choice or True/False
 - b. Create one or more quizzes that deal with this module
 - c. Usually 4 or 5 choices or statements work best for each quiz
 - d. After allowing a minute or two for the students to complete the quiz, go over the answers. For false statements, ask the class what change could be made to make the statement true
32. 46 Blessings God gives freely to all
 - i. There are countless others
 - b. His care for us
 - c. Our health
 - d. Ability to do good for others and share our lives
 - e. Joy
 - f. Contentment
 - g. Trust in God
 - h. A thankful heart
 - i. Reading and meditating on God's word
 - j. Righteous behavior
 - k. Fruits of the spirit (love, joy, peace, etc)-
33. 46 Blessings (cont'd)
 - a. The joy of sharing the gospel
 - b. Learning something new from teachers of God's truth
 - c. Salvation
 - d. Love for God
 - e. God's love for us

- f. Love of others, including our parents, spouse children, and relatives
 - g. Friends
 - h. Warmth of the sun, the rain, fresh air
 - i. The seasons
 - j. Ability to dream, to plan, to create
34. 46 Blessings (cont'd)
- a. Forgiveness, to forgive and be forgiven
 - b. Hope for the future
 - c. Gifts of the spirit
 - d. Gift of the senses, such sight, smell, hearing, taste and feeling
 - e. The ability to share with feeling, compassion, sorrow, and the pain of others
 - f. The air we breath
 - g. A pure conscience
 - h. A good night's sleep
 - i. The ability to walk, run -
35. 46 Blessings (cont'd)
- a. The ability to appreciate beautiful things
 - b. Laughter
 - c. The ability to bring joy to someone
 - d. Inner peace
 - e. The sound of children at play
 - f. Watching a sunrise or sunset
 - g. The aroma of fresh baked cookies
 - h. The taste of fresh corn on the cob
 - i. The smell of the forest after a rain
 - j. The love of a spouse
 - k. The sound of a waterfall -
36. 46 Blessings (cont'd)
- a. Strength of conviction
 - b. Passion to excel
 - c. Commitment
 - d. Faithfulness
 - e. Patience
 - f. Integrity of heart
 - g. Others?
 - h. ??? -
37. 6 Scriptural warnings against mistreatment of the poor
38. 1. Discriminating against the poor is wrong
- a. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? James 2:2-4
39. 2. The rich have the power to cause great harm against the poor and defenseless
- a. But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress

- you, and the ones who drag you into court? ⁷ Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called? James 2:6-7 (ESV)
40. 3. To oppress the poor is to insult God
 - a. Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him. Proverbs 14:31 (ESV)
 41. 4. Withholding justice from the poor and needy is a great sin
 - a. Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon you. Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. Look! The wages you failed to pay the workmen who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. James 5:1-4
 - b. “You shall not oppress a hired worker who is poor and needy, whether he is one of your brothers or one of the sojourners who are in your land within your towns. You shall give him his wages on the same day, before the sun sets (for he is poor and counts on it), lest he cry against you to the LORD, and you be guilty of sin. Deuteronomy 24:14-15 (ESV)
 42. 5. Ignoring, persecuting and shaming those who are suffering is wrong
 - a. You know how I am scorned, disgraced and shamed; all my enemies are before you. Scorn has broken my heart and has left me helpless; I looked for sympathy, but there was none, for comforters, but I found none. They put gall in my food and gave me vinegar for my thirst. May the table set before them become a snare; may it become retribution and a trap. May their eyes be darkened so they cannot see, and their backs be bent forever. Pour out your wrath on them; let your fierce anger overtake them. May their place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in their tents. For they persecute those you wound and talk about the pain of those you hurt. Charge them with crime upon crime; do not let them share in your salvation. May they be blotted out of the book of life and not be listed with the righteous. Psa 69.20-28
 43. 6. Mistreating the needy is condemned in Scripture
 - a. Profiting at their expense: Don't charge interest when you lend money to any of my people who are in need. Exodus 22:25 (CEV)
 - b. Compromising their dignity: "When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the alien. I am the LORD your God. Leviticus 19:9-10
 - c. Exploiting them: Do not exploit the poor because they are poor and do not crush the needy in court, Proverbs 22:22
 44. 21 excuses for not helping the poor
 - a. They are lazy and despicable people who deserve poverty
 - b. They didn't properly manage what they had
 - c. I have no time to help them
 - d. I don't want them to become dependent on me
 - e. Government will take care of them
 - f. God will take of them himself if they will just be patient

45. Excuses, excuses
 - a. God has willed their poverty
 - b. If God is punishing them, I dare not interfere
 - c. If I help one, others will find out and I will be overwhelmed with appeals
 - d. If I help one now, he will just keep coming back for more
 - e. Every one should earn their own living
 - f. I'm too busy today--maybe tomorrow
 - g. I have more important priorities for my money
 - h. It is not convenient right now to give away my money
46. More excuses
 - a. Let them ask someone with more money to help them
 - b. Not socially acceptable
 - c. We only have enough to care of ourselves
 - d. Their problems are not my concern
 - e. I earned my money and so should they
 - f. They didn't ask for help!
 - g. They are responsible for taking care of themselves
47. Class discussion
 - a. Which of the preceding excuses will God accept for neglecting the poor and needy?
 - b. How should we balance the needs of ourselves, our family, our church and our other priorities with helping the poor and needy?
48. Quiz
 - i. Multiple choice or True/False
 - b. Create one or more quizzes that deal with this module
 - c. Usually 4 or 5 choices or statements work best for each quiz
 - d. After allowing a minute or two for the students to complete the quiz, go over the answers. For false statements, ask the class what change could be made to make the statement true
49. 6 responsibilities Christian's have to the poor
 - i. The basic concept: Come alongside and help our neighbor in his time of need
 - b. The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Mark 12:31 (ESV)
50. 1. Treat the poor with respect
 - a. My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? James 2:1-4
51. 2. Do not neglect them
 - a. There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus,

- covered with sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. Luke 16:19-21 (ESV)
- b. Don't let it be said of us that the dogs care more for the poor than we do.
52. 3. Care for them Luke 16:25
- a. "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' Matthew 25:34-36
 - b. As members of God's household, we are to specifically care for widows and orphans
53. The church is to be a model of caring for the needy
- i. Especially widows and orphans
 - b. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world James 1:27
54. 4. Be kind and generous to them
- a. When you help the poor you are lending to the Lord--and he pays wonderful interest on your loan! Prov. 19:17 NLT
 - b. "When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and the alien. I am the LORD your God." Leviticus 23:22
 - c. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 1 Timothy 6:18
 - d. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Hebrews 13:16
 - e. 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? 1 John 3:17
55. 5. Lift them up and brighten their day
- i. As God does with us, make them feel special
 - b. Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." Luke 14:12-14
56. 6. Rescue and defend them
- a. "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy." Proverbs 31:8-9
 - b. "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter--when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Isaiah 58:6-7

- c. Job was a friend to the needy
57. Job rescued and defended the oppressed
- a. Whoever heard me spoke well of me, and those who saw me commended me, because I rescued the poor who cried for help, and the fatherless who had none to assist him. The man who was dying blessed me; I made the widow's heart sing. I put on righteousness as my clothing; justice was my robe and my turban. I was eyes to the blind and feet to the lame. I was a father to the needy; I took up the case of the stranger. I broke the fangs of the wicked and snatched the victims from their teeth. Job 29:11-17
58. Quiz
- i. Multiple choice or True/False
 - b. Create one or more quizzes that deal with this module
 - c. Usually 4 or 5 choices or statements work best for each quiz
 - d. After allowing a minute or two for the students to complete the quiz, go over the answers. For false statements, ask the class what change could be made to make the statement true
59. Questions for discussion
- a. In what ways is Job a model for us today? In what ways is he not a model for us?
 - b. What are some simple and practical ways we can care for the needy beginning with our neighbor and extending it globally?
 - c. What do you think of the idea of treating the needy to a special, over and above blessing?
60. 10 responsibilities the poor have to themselves
- a. Trust God as their protector and provider
 - b. Practice Godly contentment
 - c. Take advantage of every opportunity
 - d. Work hard
 - e. Honor God with their first-fruits
 - f. Learn to live sustainably with what they have
 - g. Avoid borrowing, gambling, or stealing
 - h. Seek godly counsel to try to improve their situation
 - i. Pray for God's wisdom
 - j. Seek the true riches rather than monetary wealth
61. 17 strategies for achieving poverty
- i. Lifestyles of those headed towards poverty
62. 1. Be lazy
- a. But you, lazybones, how long will you sleep? When will you wake up? A little extra sleep, a little more slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest— then poverty will pounce on you like a bandit; scarcity will attack you like an armed robber. Proverbs 6:9-11 (NLT)
63. 2. Chase fantasies and worthless pursuits
- a. Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits will have plenty of poverty. Proverbs 28:19 (ESV)
64. 3. Talk, talk, talk
- a. Work brings profit, but mere talk leads to poverty! Proverbs 14:23 (NLT)
65. 4. Party, party, party

- a. Work your garden—you'll end up with plenty of food; play and party—you'll end up with an empty plate. Proverbs 28:19 (MSG)
- 66. 5. Make hasty or reckless decisions
 - a. Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty. Proverbs 21:5 (NLT)
- 67. 6. Ignore discipline and correction
 - a. He who ignores discipline comes to poverty and shame, but whoever heeds correction is honored. Proverbs 13:18
- 68. 7. Don't make appropriate plans
 - i. Take the road to nowhere
 - b. "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Luke 14:28-30
- 69. 8. Live a sinful lifestyle
 - a. Therefore, I have begun to destroy you, to ruin you because of your sins. Micah 6:13
- 70. 9. Commit fraud and deception
 - a. Therefore I will give their wives to other men and their fields to new owners. From the least to the greatest, all are greedy for gain; prophets and priests alike, all practice deceit. Jeremiah 8:10
- 71. 10. Choose the wrong friends
 - a. He who walks with wise *men* will be wise, But the companion of fools will be destroyed. Proverbs 13:20 (NKJV)
 - b. How well God must like you— you don't hang out at Sin Saloon, you don't slink along Dead-End Road, you don't go to Smart-Mouth College. Instead you thrill to GOD's Word, you chew on Scripture day and night. You're a tree replanted in Eden, bearing fresh fruit every month, Never dropping a leaf, always in blossom. You're not at all like the wicked, who are mere windblown dust— Without defense in court, unfit company for innocent people. GOD charts the road you take. The road *they* take is Skid Row. Psalm 1:1-6 (MSG)
- 72. 11. Be stingy
 - a. One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Proverbs 11:24 (ESV)
- 73. 12. Dabble in get-rich-quick schemes
 - a. Greedy people try to get rich quick but don't realize they're headed for poverty. Proverbs 28:22 (NLT)
- 74. 13. Obtain wealth by unjust means
 - a. Like a partridge that hatches eggs she has not laid, so are those who get their wealth by unjust means. At midlife they will lose their riches; in the end, they will become poor old fools. Jeremiah 17:11 (NLT)
- 75. 14. Be a drunkard or a glutton
 - a. Don't be a heavy drinker or stuff yourself with food. ²¹ It will make you feel drowsy, and you will end up poor with only rags to wear. Proverbs 23:20-21 (CEV)
- 76. 15. Live a life devoted to pleasure

- a. Whoever loves pleasure will be a poor man; he who loves wine and oil will not be rich. Proverbs 21:17 (ESV)
- 77. 16. Oppress the poor: Proverbs 22:16
 - a. Whoever oppresses the poor to increase his own wealth, or gives to the rich, will only come to poverty. Proverbs 22:16 (ESV)
- 78. 17. Bribe and flatter the rich
 - a. A person who gets ahead by oppressing the poor or by showering gifts on the rich will end in poverty. Proverbs 22:16 (NLT)
- 79. Questions for discussion
 - a. What other strategies are there for achieving poverty?
 - b. As Christians, should we help financially those who are successfully practicing a strategy for achieving poverty? In what way or ways? What should be our goal in helping them?
- 80. Ten Biblical principles about money and wealth
 - i. A survey of Scripture