

A photograph showing a hand in a dark suit sleeve dropping several gold coins into the open palm of another hand in a light-colored shirt sleeve. The background is a textured, light green surface.

The Cheerful Giver

2 Corinthians 9:7

Charity not Coercion

- Acts 2-5 promotes voluntary but limited charity.
- God is not seeking coerced “charity” (2 Cor. 9:7).
- Indentured service and Jubilee (Lev. 25; Ex. 21:2).



The Causes of Poverty



- In a good and just society, poverty should not/need not exist (Deut.15:4).
- But there are poor even in a good and just society (Deut. 15:7, 11; Matt. 26:11).
- People oppress and take advantage of the poor (Jas. 5:1-4).
- Natural disasters cause poverty (Acts 11:27-30).
- Individual disasters can cause poverty (Jas. 1:27; Lk. 10:30-37).
- Personal failure can cause poverty (Prov. 10:4; 13:18; 2 Thess. 3:10).



Responsible Charity



- The causes of poverty will affect the solutions most likely to relieve it.
- Consider the priority of responsibilities (Mk. 7:9-13; 1 Tim. 5:4; Gal. 6:10).
- Think of the long term as well as the short term (1 Tim. 5:11).
- Do not rob dignity with your charity (Lev. 19:9-10).
- Plan for generosity (2 Cor. 8:12).

