

Helping Others

God wants us to be compassionate to those who are in need. The Bible gives several scriptures which describe God's concern and our obligation to help the poor, widows and orphans. Our faith does not call us to just feel empathy for those who hurt and suffer but it is a call to action. It is a call to use our God given tangible resources to make a difference in the lives of others.

God desires born-again believers to personally and organizationally help the needy. But is this a call to help everyone? Should we distinguish the needy from the greedy? We live in a world where everyone who begs is not in need. There are con-artists and scams all around us. God holds us accountable for our stewardship just like he holds us accountable for our sympathy and compassion.

There is no question we should help. God has given us a heart to help, but there are so many needs all around us. Who should we help, and how can we help become the bigger questions. I hope this study will shed some light on those questions so you can continue to obey God and serve others who are really in need.

1. God has a heart for those who are hurting and are in need. He desires that we have the same **heartfelt compassion**.

Proverbs 14:31; James 1:27; 1 John 3:17-18

2. The Bible commands us to help the poor and there is a **blessing** in **helping** others.

Proverbs 22:9; Hebrews 6:10; Luke 6:28; Proverbs 28:27

3. There are at least three lessons we learn about helping others from the story of the Good Samaritan.

a. Help should not be given or denied based on **race** or **culture**.

b. Do not **condemn** a person for getting themselves into a bad situation.

c. Helping others will **cost** you

4. God has called us to be **generous** to those who are in need, but by the same token, we must be **responsible** in our giving.

2 Thessalonians 3:7-10

5. The primary purpose of the church is to **proclaim** the gospel of Jesus and to **nurture** believers to maturity in Christ.

Matthew 28:19-20

6. The Apostle Paul sets some **guidelines** for the church's benevolence program to widows.

1 Timothy 5:9-16

7. People do not always know what to ask for when they are in need.

Acts 3:1-10