

MATTHEW 25



SYSTEMIC POVERTY

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Systemic poverty refers to the economic MANHEW 23 exploitation of people who are poor through laws, policies, practices and systems that perpetuate their impoverished status.

POVERTY IN TOPEKA, KANSAS



- In Downtown Topeka, median household income is \$17,130.
- In Southwest Topeka, median household income is \$89,842.
- In Topeka, median household income is \$40,342.

WHAT CONTRIBUTES TO SYSTEMIC POVERTY?

- Lack of affordable housing
- Racism, Sexism, Classism
- Mass Incarceration
- Low wages
- Access to Healthcare
- Debt (specifically, payday loans)
- Access to Education



BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES FOR ERADICATING POVERTY

"Now if there are some poor persons among you, say one of your fellow Israelites in one of your cities in the land that the Lord your God is giving you, don't be hard-hearted or tightfisted toward your poor fellow Israelites. To the contrary! Open your hand wide to them. You must generously lend them whatever they need."

Deuteronomy 15: 7-8

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES FOR ERADICATING POVERTY

The Lord God's spirit is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me. The Lord has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim release for captives, and liberation for prisoners



Isaiah 61: 1-2

THEOLOGY BEHIND ERADICATING SYSTEMIC POVERTY

Presbyterians Believe:



- Government is God's agent when it comes to the providential care of people.
- Creation is entrusted to our care.
- A crucial part of our worship and mission is to stand together for the common good.

HOLDING LEADERSHIP ACCOUNTABLE

- The Church is not partisan; the church is called to hold leaders accountable regardless of political party popularity, etc.

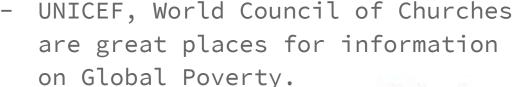
- Government has a moral imperative to care for the poor.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

- → Educate
- → Advocate
- → Participate
- → Donate

EDUCATE

Learn about poverty in your community. Doorstep, Topeka Rescue Mission, YWCA, etc. have resources readily available.





EDUCATE

- Learn about how Trinity Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery of Northern Kansas, and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are addressing issues of systemic poverty.

www.pnks.org

www.trinitypresbyterian.net

www.pcusa.org



ADVOCATE

There are numerous religious and non-profits working to eradicate systemic poverty. They need voices to get their message heard.



PARTICIPATE

Go to a JUMP House
Meeting (One after church today, one
Tuesday evening on ZOOM)

 Join the Mission or Peacemaking Committees.



PARTICIPATE

 Volunteer with an organization committed to alleviating poverty.

- Pay attention to legislative cycles. Write your legislators.



DONATE

- Money and Time are the two biggest resources needed to eradicate poverty.

www.trinitypresbyterian.net/give



SELF-ASSESSMENT

How does your congregation relate to your local community? What systems — political, religious, cultural or social — are involved in this relationship?

In what way(s) is your congregation educating about, advocating for, and participating in missions that work to eradicate systemic poverty?

God sends the Church to show compassion in the world: feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, visiting prisoners, freeing captives, sheltering the homeless, welcoming strangers, comforting those who mourn, and being present with all who are in need.

