

And the Good News was Preached to the Poor: Effective Strategies for Poverty Alleviation

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- I. Introduction
- II. What is Poverty?
 - A. Our assumption of the cause of poverty leads to our (ineffective) proposed solution
- III. The 4 Key Relationships
 - A. Our relationship with God/ Creation/ Others/ Ourselves was perfect at Creation and was then distored in the Fall
 - B. A distortion of any one of the 4 Key Relationships can lead to material poverty
 1. God- the Poverty of Spiritual Intimacy (worship spirits or false gods)
 2. Creation- Poverty of Stewardship (failure to take dominion)
 3. Others- Poverty of Community (intertribal conflict)
 4. Self- Poverty of Being (marred identity)
- IV. Who are the Poor? WE are the Poor.
- V. Poverty Alleviation is about reconciling relationships
 - A. It starts with the Repentance of our own sins
- VI. A few Implications for working with the materially poor
 - A. We MUST walk humbly. Christ is transforming US and the people we are working with.
 - B. Poverty alleviation must be “rooted in and flow back into” the local church
 - C. Use Asset-Based rather than Needs-Based Approaches
 1. Needs-Based focuses on the deficits and short-comings in the life of the person or community
 2. Asset-Based focuses on the the capabilities, skills, and the resources of the person of community
 - D. Encourage the use of Guidelines for Benevolence and Action Plans
- VII. Visit Chalmers.org for more resources