



The Truth

Aletheia Group weekly newsletter

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“For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. For we hear that there are some who walk among you in disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies.” (2 Thessalonians 2:10-11)

“For those who cannot work, we must help and the Church should be in the forefront. However, hunger is a great motivator for those who will not work.” –Dave



“More Americans Will Use Food Stamps For Thanksgiving This Year Than Ever Before.”

It is from a US News & World Report [article](#) that states participation in the Food Stamp Program “has increased 70 percent since 2007.” The article goes on to say the number of people on food stamps equals the states of California and Connecticut; a staggering 42.2 million.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [reports](#) that in 2011, American taxpayers shelled out \$78 billion for 45 million food stamp recipients. The report says that comes out to \$4.30 a day per person. However, that is not including the \$.45 the government uses to run the program.

That means it is costing American taxpayers \$20.25 million a year to run

the Food Stamp program. That may seem like a bargain in light of the federal budget, but imagine the good that could be accomplished if Americans had that \$78 billion dollars to use to feed their neighbors?

Government is taking care of the poor because the church is not. If every American who calls him or herself a Christian were to chip in 87 cents a day, or we can round it up to \$1 a day, we would surpass the budget of the government’s food stamp program and better feed the hungry no doubt.

In fact, if every Christian was to give a dollar a day (some household would not be able to give any, others more) it would amount to \$89.165 billion a year.

I would gladly give \$60 a month (my wife and I) to a local food bank than I would to the government to waste 10 cents to my every tax dollar running a program.

FROM THE FOUNDERS



Too many welfare recipients stay on government assistance because they can live somewhat comfortably and the government makes it easy to do so. Not only that, but also society no longer frowns upon the freeloader. We have raised two generations of Americans who believe it is the duty of government to provide for their subsistence. Hence the state of our union.

"The moment the idea is admitted into society that property is not as sacred as the laws of God, and that there is not a force of law and public justice to protect it, anarchy and tyranny commence. If 'Thou shalt not covet' and 'Thou shalt not steal' were not commandments of Heaven, they must be made inviolable precepts in every society before it can be civilized or made free." John Adams, A Defense of the Constitutions of Government of the United States of America, 1787

The Founders had experienced despotic taxation as a means of wealth redistribution, although it was not given to the poor. It was primarily given to the British aristocracy. Nevertheless, Adams and his cohorts would not have supported the level of wealth redistribution we see today in America all in the name of helping out the less fortunate.

James Madison, the Father of our Constitution and the 4th President of the United States is quoted as saying, "Charity is no party of the legislative duty of the government."

No matter how quaint or compassionate the sentiment, when it comes to forced charity it is no longer such. It is coercion.

It is telling that Adams quotes the 8th and 10th Commandments from the Old Testament, assuming upon American citizens to abide by those and the other eight commandments. Adams rightly stated that if God had not forbidden stealing and coveting other people's gain, then society would need to outlaw it if it were to be free and civilized.

Interesting how we can always turn to the Bible when looking for the principles and precepts that guided our Founding Fathers. Would to God we do so today.

FROM THE PULPIT

“...persons may do good to others in outward things, and for this world. They may help others in their external difficulties and calamities, for there are innumerable kinds of temporal calamities to which mankind are liable, and in which they stand much in need of the help of their neighbors and friends. Many are hungry, or thirsty, or strangers, or naked, or sick, or in prison (Mat. 25:35, 36), or in suffering of some other kind; and to all such we may minister.” Jonathan Edwards, *From Charity and Its Fruits* [Sermon 5](#), “Charity Disposes Us To Do Good,” 1738.

Rush Limbaugh has rightly said that “Charity is willingly given from the heart.” Pastor Edwards in his powerful sermon on charitable giving explains that meeting the physical needs of our neighbors is a way “we may minister.” He goes on to say that we are to give to both “the good and to the bad” and that “we should do good to all men, as we have opportunity.”

Edwards also says “we should do good both to friends and enemies” because we have affection for the former and as Christians, it is our only form of retaliation to the latter.

Finally, Edwards says “we should do good to both the thankful and unthankful” because then we are never more like our Heavenly Father. If we do good to the unthankful we are bringing a blessing to their soul whether they acknowledge it or not. It is through our doing good that we can gain opportunity to share not only Christ Jesus, but also His teachings that instruct a person on how he or she should live. It comes back to the teachings of Jesus’ brother, James:

“What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,’ but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.” (James 2:14-17)

It is through Christian charity that we can not only meet the needs of our neighbors, but also, and more importantly, lead them to Christ. And the byproduct of our charity is we replace the government in an area it should have never ventured in the first place.

Turn to the next page to learn some practical ways to help in your neighborhood.

TO THE STREETS

WE the People need to step into the gap where there are gaps, and step into the fray where the government exists if we are to change society's mind on "government charity." Here are some steps we can take:

1. Ensure you are tithing to your church. Look at your church's budget to see how much charity goes to local needs. If they are not giving to our providing a food bank, suggest your church do so.
2. Find out where your local food banks are located. Call or visit them and find out what their needs are. A local food bank here in NW Florida is down to three weeks worth of food supplies. My wife and I plan to help replenish them and to encourage others to do the same.
3. Consider giving monthly of your time and/or money to support your local food bank. You can never give to much to them.
4. Find out from your friends, relatives, associates, and neighbors if there are any local families that are struggling with hunger. There is no need for any of our neighbors to go hungry. Make this both a neighborhood and church function.
5. Call your local, state, and federal government representatives to find out what is being done to track down those who can work but will not work. While I am greatly aware and sensitive to our nation's unemployment woes, there are many able-bodied men who are not working who should be, even if it means doing volunteer work. God designed us to work ([Genesis 2:15](#))

As I wrote earlier, we have spent the last two generations raising up a nation of government-dependent families. Our elected leaders, on both sides of the aisle, have proved they are not ready to do the heavy lifting of moving people off the government rolls and out into the workplace. It is going to take you and me, one person and one family at a time to teach them a more perfect way.

It may seem an impossible task, but us stepping forward is the only possibility left for it to be addressed. So let's get to work!

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