

Defining Charity & Redemptive Compassion

Charity compassion — *transactional; needs-focused*

- Is **Biblical**: *Matthew 25:40 "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."*
- Can be done **individually** and independently.
- Helps both the giver and the recipient **feel temporary satisfaction**.
- Is often reactive and usually **creates dependency**.
- Can often foster distrust between the giver and the recipient.
 - *The giver (superior) has the power — the recipient (inferior) remains dependent.*
- Is usually **not sustainable** by the giver creating compassion fatigue.
 - *More product, money, and resources are required to sustain people in their need because the need situation does not change. This forces the recipient to ask again and again for help.*
- Does not address the root issues and is often a **hand-out**
- Can meet the need but **ignore the person** and their situation.
- Can allow the giver to do something but **remain detached** or uninvolved.
- Can allow the motive of the giver to **be self-serving** not sacrificial.
- Further **reinforces negative emotions** in the recipient.

Ongoing charity is injurious unless it helps the recipient to become independent of it.

Redemptive compassion — *transformational; person-focused*

- Is **Biblical**: *Leviticus 19:9-10 "When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the alien... I am the Lord your God."*
- Is **responsive** not reactive.
 - *Is not driven by emotions — takes the time to gather facts. Slows down and gets involved.*
 - *Trusts God is involved and in control - believes God will meet every real need.*
- Offers a **hand-up** not just a hand-out.
 - *Empowers the recipient by engaging them in their own need situation.*
- Is not done individually, but **collectively**.
 - *Requires networking with others.*
 - *Requires wisdom found through collective spiritual discernment.*
- **Restores** dignity and **grows** positive behaviors.
 - *Self-worth is found in doing, not in receiving.*
 - *Builds up confidence as people become part of the solution, not just a problem.*
- Sets **boundaries** and **expectations**.
 - *The giver and recipient have a clear understanding of what is expected from each party.*
 - *Accountability is administered.*
- Does not try to alleviate all pain.
 - *We do not try to save others from a difficult situation but are willing to walk beside them while they go through it.*
- Is more **difficult to administer**.
 - *Requires an investment of time from both the givers and the recipients.*

We built **IMPACT** on the belief that everyone has value so we must invest in them relationally. God has given them potential and capacity which will require mutual contribution and participation. We must respond with wisdom and discernment and we must serve in ways that will transform us and them.