

Paxton Lines

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“How does Grace Baptist Church minister to the poor and needy?”

GBC ministers to the poor and needy through faithful preaching and teaching of the Word of God; in particular, preaching the Good News of how Jesus Christ reconciles the lost to Himself and offers new life through repentance and faith in Christ alone.

The Church faces a real danger, the social gospel. In Churches across America, the social gospel has replaced the true gospel- Salvation from sin and death through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. (Luke 5:32, Ephesians 2:4-9) Churches have exchanged the true gospel for a message that doesn't offend, one of earthly justice, social reform and human flourishing.

The Scripture commands us to love our neighbors and care for the poor. These outworking in the individual are the fruit of genuine faith not the substance of the gospel itself. Warnings abound in Scripture to guard against false gospels (Galatians 1:8-9). Jesus came to seek and save the lost (Rom 5:6-11). Without Christ, an individual is truly poor and needy. Our love for Christ and our gratitude for what He has done for us should drive us to offer to the poor and needy what they truly need.

GBC also ministers to the needy through the diaconate and eldership of the church as they are made aware of needs within the body. We say within the body because we do not have any formal benevolence ministries aimed outside GBC. Individually, members are free as they are led by the Holy Spirit to care for others outside or within the Church. (1 Tim 6:18) From time-to-time needs are brought to the attention of the diaconate, or elders. Effort is made to fully understand the need by inquiring what has led to the need at hand, what is the overall picture of the persons situation, and how to prevent recurring needs due to poor stewardship or other potential sin issues. Scripture like Matt 10:16, 1Tim 5, 2 Thess. 3:10 are kept in mind throughout the process.

Pastor's Note: We regularly encourage members to faithfully meet needs as they are able in accordance with Jesus' commands. Our primary mission at GBC is to equip the gathered saints to do the work of the ministry. The maxim “what you win them with is what you win them to” is also instructive. In an effort to prevent mission drift, we have left all benevolence ministries to those outside of the membership of GBC, to the Holy Spirit led hearts of each individual member.