

Poverty and Wealth

Does money bring happiness?



- We need money to survive - everything costs money and nothing is free
- Some argue that there can be having 'too much' money
- There is an old saying: "Money cannot buy happiness"
- People mistakenly believe that the more money you have, the happier you will be
- It is greed, not deprivation, that makes us want **more** of money and material possessions
- Wealth is not evenly spread across society. Sports stars and celebrities, for example, earn far more than doctors.



Acquiring Wealth

Christian Aid

Christian Aid is a Christian charity working in partnership with local organisations over 60 different countries to help those in need - regardless of religion, ethnicity or nationality. It aims to stop poverty and challenge systems that favour the rich over the poor and marginalised. It does this by organising projects and educating people about the causes of poverty through running campaigns and Fair Trade activities.

- It works on the basis of a belief in God who loves us all
 - It promotes the dignity of human life
 - It includes the following values

Love and Solidarity: They are called to love and care for one another in compassion and humility, they stand alongside those who struggle with poverty, powerlessness and injustice

Dignity and Respect: Every human being has innate dignity. All people are of equal worth, which is why they place honesty and respect for others at the heart of what they do

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Wealth in Britain



- Britain is described as a materialistic society, which values money and the possessions that money can buy
- People can use their wealth to buy material goods and holidays
- The UK is Europe's most generous nation in terms of charitable giving
- People might also use their wealth to help family and friends. For example, many parents are lending their children money so that they can buy homes



Relative & Absolute

Using Wealth

- A person's value should be judged by their actions and not by what they possess or how much money they have
- Having wealth is not necessarily bad or wrong, but it must be **used wisely**
- **Christians would do a job that helps people** and avoid jobs that cause harm
- Some Christians (Quakers/Society of Friends) are **against gambling** because this is an **unwise use for money**. It also encourages the love of money for its own sake and suggests that winning money is the ultimate prize
- **Quakers/Society of Friends** do not take part in any sort of gambling because it encourages greed and the view that having an excess of money generates happiness



Quakers
The Religious Society of Friends

Anti POVERTY

UK Poverty Report

Children who are born into poor families are more likely to develop **chronic illnesses** and less likely to do well in **education** than those who are not. This means that they are more likely to live in poverty as an adult.

People try to reduce poverty through donations, charity work and making people aware of the social injustices happening in the world

We often don't think of people in UK as living in poverty as the UK is a very wealthy country compared with many others, with access to basic services, such as council housing and running water. **Oxfam** has reported that there are 2 million malnourished people in UK (are not able to eat enough to sustain a healthy body) with a further 3 million at risk of malnourishment.



Relative Poverty: A standard of poverty measured in relation to the standards of a society in which a person lives, for example, living on less than x per cent of average UK income. For example, in the UK it is considered to be in 'relative poverty' if your standard of living is lower than the majority of the country.

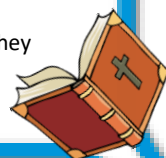
Absolute Poverty: A state of deprivation, whereby a person cannot access the most basic of their human needs. It includes having no access to basic services, such as medicine or shelter.



Christian Teachings



- Jesus taught that **wealth doesn't make people happy and can lead to greed**
- **Money cannot go with us when we die**, therefore it is unimportant in the Kingdom of God
- Matthew 6: **Jesus warns that money can take the place of God in the hearts of men**
- The **Parable of the Rich Young Man**: A rich man asks Jesus what he needs to do to enter the Kingdom of God. Jesus replies, 'sell all you own and give the money to charity. Then come and follow me.' The young man left Jesus disappointed because he loved his money more than he loved God.
- Today, many religious people (e.g. monks/nuns) take a **vow of poverty** to give up everything they possess to better focus on God and their faith
- Jesus taught to care for the poor. The **Parable of the Sheep and the Goats** tells us that God will not judge people on how much wealth they have gained but on their treatment of the poor and needy



Lazarus and the Rich Man: This Parable teaches to look after the poor and in need.

Your afterlife depends upon it!

Some Christians **tithe** - this means to give 10% of money to charity straight out of a person's salary.

For many Christians, supporting charities either through donations or voluntary work is an important **part of showing their faith**. There are different **charities working to**

tackle poverty in Britain and globally, e.g. **CAFOD** and **Christian Aid**.



- It is important to care about poverty because of our shared humanity
- An important belief of humanists is that people should treat others in a way that they want to be treated. This means that their actions should be fair and just
- Humanists do not believe that poverty and suffering is caused by fate or is a punishment for previous actions
- For many humanists it is important to consider why there is poverty and to try to create a world that is socially just through active campaigning.



Humanists