

BAHRAIN REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH
CCCC: Social Responsibility

March 1, 2024

Preliminary

Note: Christian's social responsibility on behalf of any who are in need is demanded by the rule: "*Love your neighbors as yourself*"

Description: Christian are the 'salt and light' of the earth... Mt 5:13-16

- Salt = It brings out the flavor of any food; it preserves, cleans, and helps heal infection
- Light = It banishes darkness... the good works of Christ's followers are to shine for all to see.

Point: Social action means to use the Word of God and the material wealth God has provided to eliminate hunger and other effects of poverty at home and around the world... Lev 25:35; Ex 22:25; Jas 2:14-17

1. The Pattern of Social Action

(a) The Trinitarian relationship

Note: Christian social responsibility is rooted in the relational love of the Trinity... God does not exist in isolation.

- God is not static (Aristotle's unmoved mover), but with anthropomorphic like emotions... i.e., He loves, He is gracious, and compassionate God

Point: The quality of love in Trinitarian relationship is the same quality of his relation to His created mankind... Jn 14:10; Mt 28:19; 2 Cor.13:14

(b) God's provisions to all mankind (*Common Grace*)

Note: God created man and provided them all their needs... Gen 1:27-30; 3:21

- Even after the fall, God provided them what their needs with compassion and did not ask for anything in return... Gen 3:2. Cf. Lev 19: 9, 10; Deut 15:11
- God's provisions for the righteous and unrighteous... Act 14:17
Mt 5:45 = *For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.*

Ps 145:9 = *The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made*

Lk 6:35 = *But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil*

(c) The holiness and justice of God to sin

Note: As God is holy and just, He punishes criminals and sinners for the good of other people using his government... I.e., extortion, robbery, oppression, and racial discrimination... Jer 22:13; Ezek 22:23-31; Amos 2:6-8; Rom 13:6b

- God forbids partiality/favoritism on the ground of class, money and privilege... Lev 19:15; Gal 3:28; Jas 2:1-13

(d) As God loves the world, He gave his only begotten Son for us... Jn 3:16

Scripture: Mk 10:45; Act 10:38; Mt 8:24-38; Lk 7:11-17, 39; 15:2; 19:7; Mt 9:9-13; 14:14-21; Mk 2:13-17; etc.

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- (e) The example of the early church
 - They sold their possessions and goods, and gave to those who had need... Texts: Act 2:44-45; 4:32, 34, 35; 6:1
 - The early churches collected gifts for the impoverished Jerusalem Christians... Act 24:17; Rom 15:26; 1 Cor 16:3
 - Point: The funds for churches benevolence and social help should be *only* from churches contributions, and not from solicitation or any worldly fundraising.
- (f) Jesus Christ as Christian model

Note: Our Lord Jesus Christ went around doing good works... Act 10:38

Scripture: Mt 8:28-34; 9:9-13; 11:1-6; 14:14-21; Lk 7:11ff; 39; 15:2; 19:7; Jn 6:1ff; Mk 2:13-17; 6:30; etc.

2. Christian's Social Involvement Guidance

Note: We have to keep before us the priority of meeting people's need and most especially to share the gospel to all... Lk 4:18-19; Mt 28:18-20

1 Thessalonians 2:8 = *So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.*

Point: Christian involvement in society with their gospel can change people lives for good... Lk 19:8; Jn 8:11

Example: Christian Compassion Ministry of CRBC; HeartCry Mission

- We are never to make our religious belief and spiritual responsibilities an excuse for neglecting practical and social needs... I.e. Lk 10:30-37 = The good Samaritan
- We are to be good servant of God to all people not letting the government alone to do all the action for helping the society.
- Christians (not as a Church) are can work with the government to help society... e.g. *social worker, police, politician*
- Every believer can write their opinion in any media platform about their opposition to governments policies based on Scripture mandates, and with a meek, gentle and Christian manner.

Challenge: Christian social action is the natural expression of spirit filled life

- Social action of Christian is 24/7 - There is no switch to flip off our "light" whenever we feel like it.
- God expects us to be salt and light in those communities, flavoring, challenging, and illuminating everywhere we can.
- God has blessed us with a job so that we can support ourselves, our families, the Church, and our neighbors

Love for God and love for people are never in conflict... Lk 10:27-28

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