



# Remember the Poor

Galatians 2:10

and when James and Cephas and John,  
who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace  
that was given to me, they gave the right hand  
of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we  
should go to the Gentiles and they to the  
circumcised. Only, they asked us to

**remember the poor**, the  
very thing I was eager to do.





## Galatians 2:10

- Only, they asked us to  
**remember the poor,**



## remember

- to keep in mind for attention or consideration

## poor

- lacking material possessions
- characterized by poverty

Merriam-Webster



# What is the historical context?

Christians in Jerusalem  
were especially  
struggling economically.

**“Poor” is a very  
relative term.**



**There is poverty in  
the US and then  
there is global  
poverty.**



# What does the Bible say about the poor and poverty?

**I need to remember**



**1. To give to the poor and  
be generous**





# Deuteronomy 15:7

- “If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother,



## Exodus 22:25

- “If you lend money to any of my people with you who is poor, you shall not be like a moneylender to him, and **you shall not exact interest from him.**



# Jesus Said

Matthew 6:42



## Matthew 5:42

- Give to the one who begs from you,
- and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.



# How do I deal with this?



# Hear the Words of Moses in the Law

Deuteronomy 15:11



# Deuteronomy 15:11

- For there will never cease to be poor in the land.

Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.'





# THE ANOINTING

---

## AT BETHANY

**Mark 14:7**

**For you always have the poor with you,  
and whenever you want, you can do good for them.  
But you will not always have me.**



**This bottom-line statement from the Word of God should guard my heart from obsessing about the elimination of poverty.**



**My takeaway: Social issues are not more important than spiritual issues.**

**Now look at the rest of the verse.**



# Deuteronomy 15:11

- For there will never cease to be poor in the land.

**Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.'**



## Deuteronomy 24:14

- “You shall not oppress a hired worker who is **poor and needy**, whether he is one of your brothers or one of the sojourners who are in your land within your towns.



# Deuteronomy 24:15

- You shall give him his wages on the same day, before the sun sets (for he is poor and counts on it), lest he cry against you to the LORD, and you be guilty of sin.



## Psalm 37:21

- The wicked borrows but does not pay back, **but the righteous is generous and gives;**



## Proverbs 28:27

- **Whoever gives to the poor will not want,** but he who hides his eyes will get many a curse.



## Psalm 41:1 (NET)

- How blessed is the one who **treats the poor properly!** When trouble comes, the LORD delivers him.



## Proverbs 14:21

- Whoever despises his neighbor is a sinner, **but blessed is he who is generous to the poor.**





## Proverbs 19:17

- Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the **LORD**, and he will repay him for his deed.



## Proverbs 21:13

- Whoever closes his ear to the cry of the poor will himself call out and not be answered.



# 1 John 3:17

- But if anyone has the world's goods and **sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him**, how does God's love abide in him?

**I need to ask and answer:**



**Am I a generous person?**

**Would others describe me  
as generous?**



# Turn to

## 1 Timothy 6:17-19



# 1 Timothy 6:17–19

- As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, **to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share**, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.



I love

Ephesians 4:28



## Ephesians 4:28

- Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing **honest work with his own hands**, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.





## Romans 12:13

- **Contribute to the needs of the saints** and seek to show hospitality.



# Being Generous Is the Antidote to Loving Money



## Hebrews 13:5

- **Keep your life free from love of money,** and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

# I need to remember



1. To give to the poor and be generous

**2. Equal focus needs to be placed  
on working**

**Any solution to poverty that does  
not include a focus on work is not  
biblical.**



**Legitimate concern about eliminating poverty must focus on three things.**

- 1. Work**
- 2. Education**
- 3. Marriage**





## Proverbs 10:4 (NET)

- The one who is lazy becomes poor, but the one who works diligently becomes wealthy.





**What are we teaching our children?**

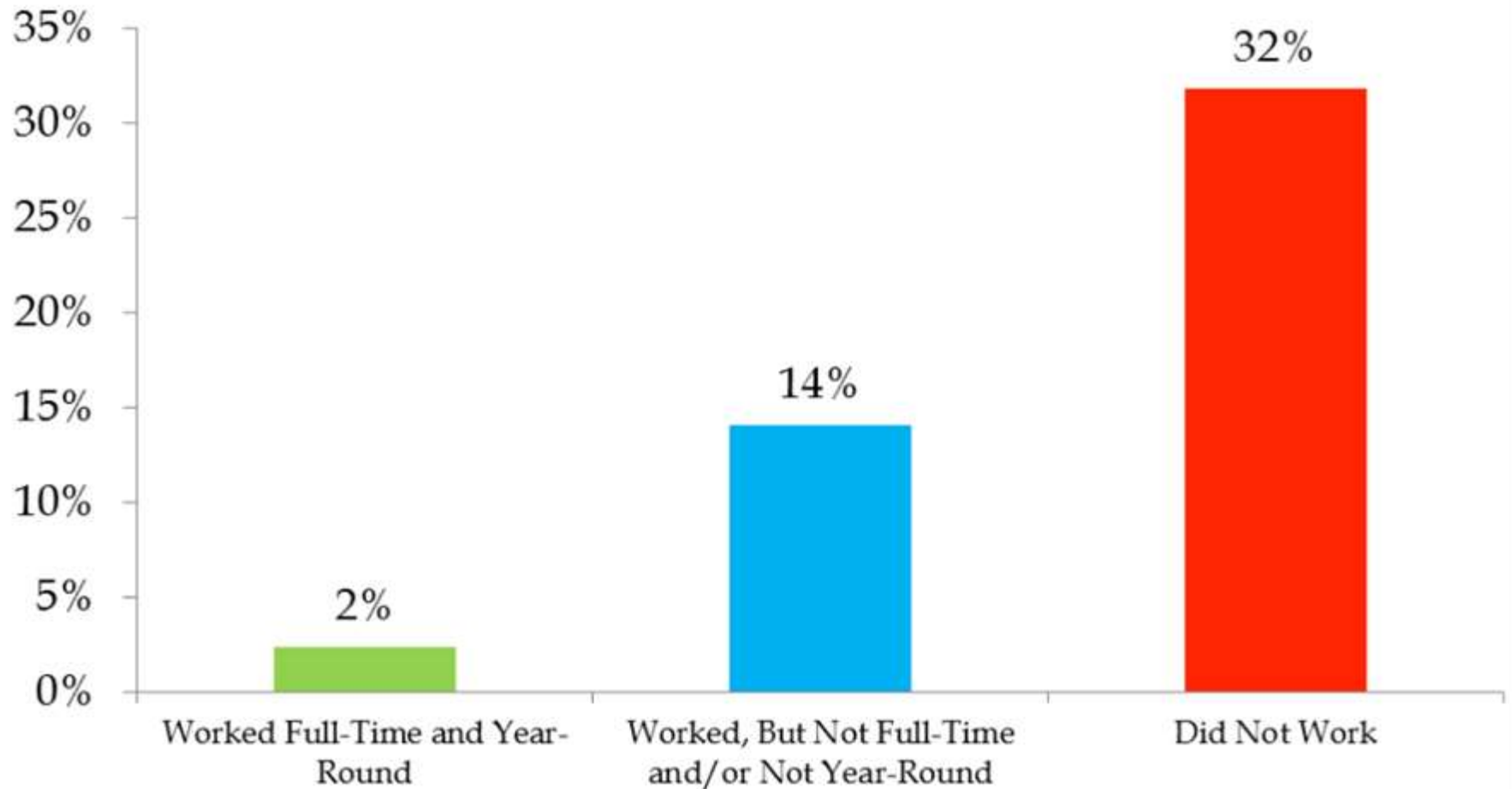


According to the US Census Bureau's recently released report, Income and Poverty in the United States:

2015, just 2.4 percent of working-age individuals **employed full-time and year-round live in poverty**, down from 3 percent in 2014.



## Poverty Rate of People Aged 18-64 by Work Status, 2015



Source: Income and Poverty in the U.S.: 2015, U.S. Census Bureau



The likelihood of being classified as working poor diminishes as workers attain higher levels of education. Among those with **less than a high school diploma, 13.7 percent** of those who were in the labor force for at least 27 weeks were classified as working poor, **compared with 1.4 percent** of college graduates.



**What demographic has  
the greatest probability of  
being in poverty in  
America?**

From the 2016 US Census:



**22.8% of families maintained by single moms w/ children** were classified as living in poverty compared to **1.1% of married couples w/ children where both parents work.**

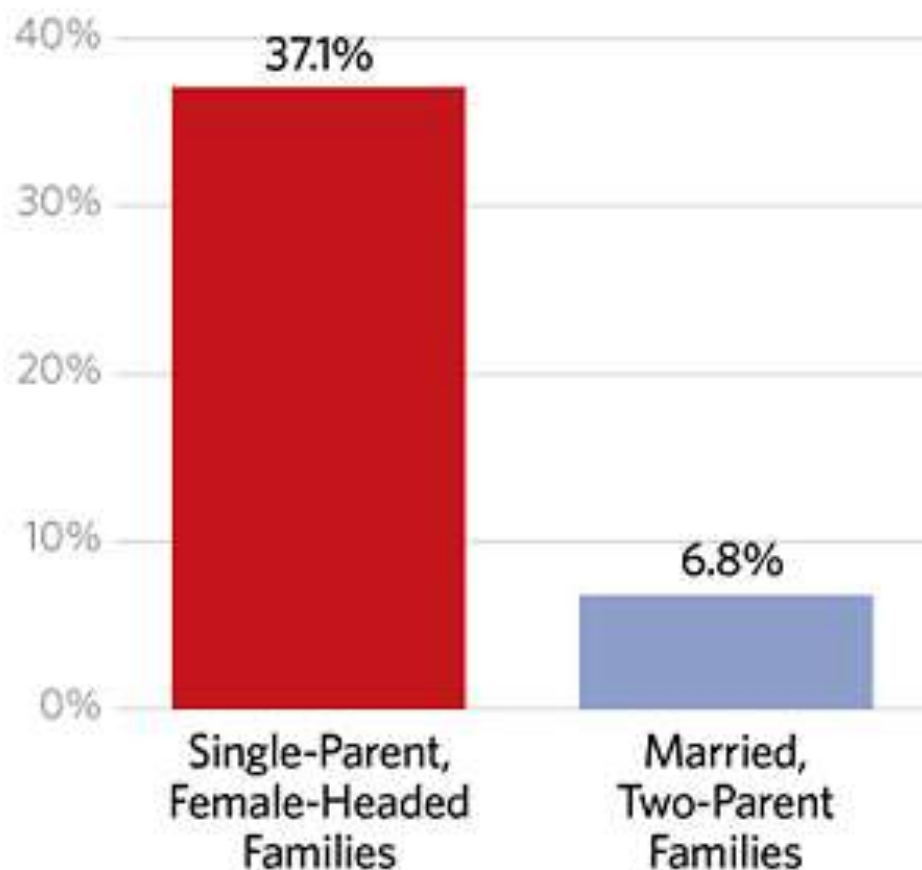
<https://www.bls.gov/opub/reports/working-poor/2016/home.htm>

## CHART 1

# In the United States, Marriage Drops the Probability of Child Poverty by 82 Percent

**Source:** Author's calculations based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007-2009 data, [http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_09\\_3YR\\_S1702&prodType=table](http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_09_3YR_S1702&prodType=table) (accessed August 6, 2012).

### PERCENTAGE OF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN THAT ARE POOR

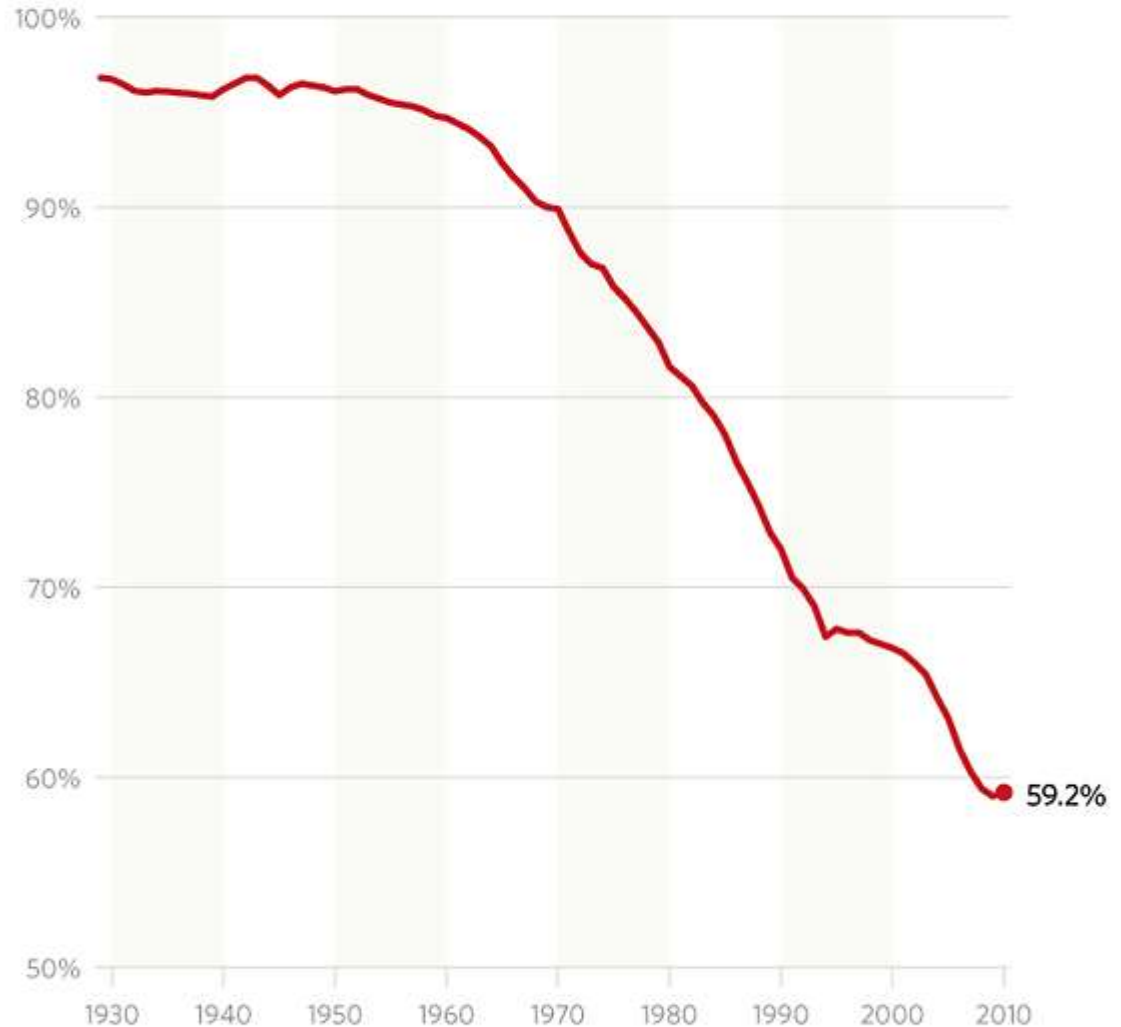


**Percentage  
of children  
born to  
married  
parents in  
1930  
compared to  
2010.  
Nearly 100%  
to a low of  
59%.**

CHART 2

## Death of Marriage in the United States, 1929-2010

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN  
BORN TO MARRIED PARENTS



Source: U.S. Government, U.S. Census Bureau, and National Center for Health Statistics.



## Proverbs 26:14

- As a door turns on its hinges, so  
**does a sluggard on  
his bed.**



Only the physically  
and mentally  
disabled are  
exempt from the  
work requirement.





## Proverbs 6:9–11

- How long will you lie there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? <sup>10</sup> A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, <sup>11</sup> and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.



**Parents,**

**Except for a hunger and a thirst for the “things of God” can you think of anything more important to develop in your children than a work ethic?**

**Perhaps integrity?**



# Turn to

## 1 Timothy 5:9ff



**No widow should be placed on the official support list unless she is at least 60 years old, has been the wife of one husband, <sup>10</sup> and is well known for good works —that is, if she has brought up children, shown hospitality, washed the saints' feet, helped the afflicted, and devoted herself to every good work. <sup>11</sup> But refuse to enroll younger widows,**

**The same Paul who said he was eager to remember the poor wrote 13 letters with lots of content. He wrote:**



- **1 Timothy 5:8**
- **Ephesians 4:28**
- **Galatians 6:7**
- **2 Thessalonians 3:10**



# 1 Timothy 5:8

- But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.



## Ephesians 4:28

- Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, **doing honest work with his own hands,** so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.



## Galatians 6:7

- Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, **for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.**





**Paul would not support an economic system of wealth redistribution such that the principle of sowing and reaping is negated.**

**Ask: At what point is my giving enabling or encouraging sin?**



# How do we reconcile?

Matthew 5:42

2 Thessalonians 3:10

## Matthew 5:42



**Give to the one who begs from you,  
and do not refuse the one who would  
borrow from you.**

## 2 Thessalonians 3:10

**For even when we were with you, we  
would give you this command: **If anyone is  
not willing to work, let him not eat.****



# OT Welfare

## Leviticus

### 19:10 & 23:22



## Leviticus 19:10

- And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. **You shall leave them for the poor** and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God.



## Leviticus 23:22

- “And when you reap the harvest of your land, **you shall not reap your field right up to its edge**, nor shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. **You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God.”**



**What did the poor have  
to do with regard to the  
leftover and unharvested  
crop in these fields?**

**Answer: Glean!**



# How did Boaz open his hand wide to Ruth?

## Turn to Ruth 2



## Notice Boaz



- 1. Did not eliminate the need to work.**
- 2. Made special provision for Ruth's security.**
- 3. Gave Ruth water to drink.**
- 4. Instructed his reapers to leave some grain behind for Ruth.**
- 5. Provided a meal for Ruth.**



# Finally

## Who was Ruth taking care of?



## Galatians 2:10

- Only, they asked us to remember the poor, **the very thing I was eager to do.**



