

FIEC Seminar - The Goal is Equality (2 Cor 8:14)

Introduction

The LORD loves justice (Psalm 33:5).

Exodus 22:5, Exodus 22:14, Exodus 23:6-9.

“Love your neighbour as yourself.” - Matthew 22:39

Proverbs 21:3

Isaiah 1:17

Micah 6:1-8

Amos 5 and 6

Galatians 6:9-10

2 Corinthians 8:1-15

Group Work

In 2s or 3s, look up a selection of these references. What do we see happening in the early church in terms of people and finances?

(Acts 2:44-45; Acts 11:27-30; Acts 13:1-3; 1 Corinthians 16:15-18; Philippians 2:19-30; 4:10, 15-19; Colossians 4:7-9; 2 Timothy 4:12; Hebrews 13:16)

Discussion Question

- *What do you think are the biggest reasons that stop us being sacrificial in giving to other churches or encouraging our people to join smaller, needier churches?*

Experiences of some smaller churches, churches in deprived communities and rural settings

Discussion Question

- *There are lots of factors and nuances, but: Do you think it's an issue to have churches in a fellowship, or network, that have multi-million pound budgets, slick services, big staff teams, loads of volunteers and plush buildings, while others don't have two pennies to rub together, the pastor is only paid part-time, has no other elders, and he and his wife and an old lady basically run everything themselves? Why or why not?*

Examples

New Life Church, Middlesbrough and Banstead Community Church

Hope Church Aviemore

Danbury Mission

Discussion Questions

- *In what ways do you think your church could help another using the resources you have?*
- *In what ways do you think your church needs help and could reach out to another to assist?*