

Growing Together Discussion Questions from Sunday's Sermon **Wisdom on Wealth III – Nov. 25, 2012**

(For Personal Study, Review, Meditation and Mid-Week Group Discussion)

I. **Getting to Know You** (*Questions for Group Discussion*):

- a. When is the last time you had to give a speech? How did it go?
- b. What's something valuable that you accidentally dropped and broke? What happened?
- c. At amusement parks, are you drawn more to the scariest roller coaster, the tamest merry-go-round, or to attending the shows? Why?

II. **Getting into the Bible:**

Points from Sunday's Message:

Ways people are led into poverty:

1. Having the wrong friends.
a. 1:11-19; 23:19-21; 29:3
2. Money gained immorally.
a. 10:2; 21:6; 28:3; 28:8
3. Gaining wealth without wisdom.
a. 13:18; 17:16; 21:20; 20:21
4. Chasing fantasies.
a. 12:11; 28:19; 14:23
5. Impoverished by poverty.
a. 19:4; 19:7; 22:7

Reasons to share with the poor:

1. Not all who are poor are lazy (orphans, widows, calamity, etc.).
2. Being generous helps the poor - & it helps me imitate God.
3. Generosity toward the poor honors God. 14:31; 19:17; 22:9
4. Jesus became poor so that we might be enriched. 2 Cor 8:9
5. God's Word and the gospel positively addresses genuine poverty. 2 Cor. 9:15

III. **Getting into Life:**

- a. How can you genuinely help the poor without rewarding or reinforcing bad habits and bad decisions?
- b. Do you believe that giving to the local church has a positive effect on addressing poverty? In other words, do you perceive that your offering to the local church is a positive response to the poor and needy? Is there more required of you in the area of addressing poverty? Is our response to the poor an individual responsibility?...a Church responsibility?...a Government responsibility? What is the basis for your answer?
- c. How does the Gospel influence your response to those in need? How does the Government influence your response to those in need?