

## Introduction

How does our vertical relationship with God impact our horizontal relationship with other Christians? How does this impact affect how we should help each other when there are physical needs?

*Read Deuteronomy 14:22-29*

1. Summarize what the Israelites were to do every year (v.22-27), and every 3<sup>rd</sup> year (v.28-29). Explain how the two events are different.
  - a. Reflect on the Vassal-Suzerain relationship between Israel and God, how does a tithe meal lead us to “fear the Lord”?
  - b. How do these events speak about our heart of giving towards God and to those in need?
  - c. How does feeding those in need relate to God’s blessing? (cf. Prov 14:21, 19:17)

*Read Deuteronomy 15:1-18*

1. What did God command the Israelites to do every seven years? (15:1-3)
  - a. What is God’s ideal for the poor, and how would this be achieved? (v.4-5)
  - b. what are the national implications of God’s blessing (v 6)?
  
2. Given God’s ideal for the poor, how are the Israelites called to handle the practical reality of poverty among their brothers (v.7-11)
  - a. What is the correct and incorrect heart disposition towards those Israelites in need?
  - b. How seriously should we take what is said here? (v.11)

3. How should the Israelites treat other Israelites in their servitude? (v.12-18)
  - a. In what way does God's deliverance of Israel from Egypt affect their treatment of their fellow Hebrews? (v.15)

These sections deal with the horizontal relationship between the people of God, and though we are no longer under the Old Covenant, there it is still a duty to love our covenant community with extreme actions:

1. Do you think how we love our Covenant community is different from Old to New Testament? (Luke 12:33-34, Acts 2:44-45, James 2:15-16)
2. What does our relationship with one another say about our vertical relationship with God? (John 13:34-35, 1 John 3:17)
3. What should the disposition be of those who are in need (romans 13:8, 1 Tim 5:8)? How should we interact with people who are idle? (2 Thess 3:16-12)
4. What are some practical ways we can love people in the church with need? If someone in the church is asking for material help, how should we respond individually?

*Read Deuteronomy 15:19-23*

1. What were the instructions for choosing the herds and flocks to be sacrificed? What were the instructions for eating the animal?
  - a. In what ways is the animal portrayed here like Jesus?

God's people, in every age, should be marked by their charity to one another. We should love people not just with our hearts but also with our hands and possessions. When we do this, we show that we truly understand the salvation and blessing we have received in the Lord, and when we obey God in loving one another this way, he is pleased with us. Let us look to bless each other the way God has richly blessed us.