



**GIVE REAL**  
➤ **CHANGE**



**PANHANDLING IS  
NOT THE ANSWER**

HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE:  
[nashvilledowntown.com/realchange](http://nashvilledowntown.com/realchange)



Christ Above Culture  
Christ Below Culture

Christ In Culture (transformation)

Give once and you elicit appreciation

Give twice and you create anticipation

Give three times and you create expectation

Give four times and it becomes entitlement

Give five times and you establish dependency

Evidence-Based:

"Don't do things that merely feel good or look good,  
do things that are good"

*Toxic Charity*  
Robert Lupton

*The Tragedy of American Compassion*  
Marvin Olasky

*Poverty and Wealth*  
Ronald Nash

We are generous and care about people in need.

We are prone to believe that caring is what matters most.

We are prone to see material prosperity as the highest good and poverty as the greatest evil.

We are prone to prioritize "symbolic" action over "substantive" ones.

1. A brief Biblical overview of the topic
2. A brief look at what does and doesn't work.
3. Some suggestions on to where to go from here.

Matt. 25:31 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. <sup>35</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, <sup>36</sup> I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? <sup>39</sup> When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ “The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’

1 Cor. 13:3 If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

1 John 3:16 This is how we know what love is, Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for each other.

Matt. 5:38 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’<sup>39</sup> But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.<sup>40</sup> And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well.<sup>41</sup> If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.<sup>42</sup> Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.”

6:1-4 “Be careful not to do your ‘acts of righteousness’ before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”

Lev. 19:9 “When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. <sup>10</sup> Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the alien. I am the LORD your God.”

1 Th. 4:11 Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, <sup>12</sup> so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

2 Th. 3:6 In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers, to keep away from every brother who is idle and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. <sup>7</sup> For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, <sup>8</sup> nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. <sup>9</sup> We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to make ourselves a model for you to follow. <sup>10</sup> For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat." <sup>11</sup> We hear that some among you are idle. They are not busy; they are busybodies. <sup>12</sup> Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the bread they eat.

We must not...

Create Dependency

Destroy personal initiative

Undermine human dignity

## The Oath for Compassionate Service

- Never do for the poor what they have (or could have) the capacity to do for themselves.
  - Limit one-way giving to emergency situations.
  - Strive to empower the poor through employment and investing.
  - Subordinate self-interests to the needs of those being served.
- Listen closely to those you seek to help, especially to what is not being said—unspoken feelings may contain essential clues to effective service.
  - Above all, do no harm.

1. Be Faithful

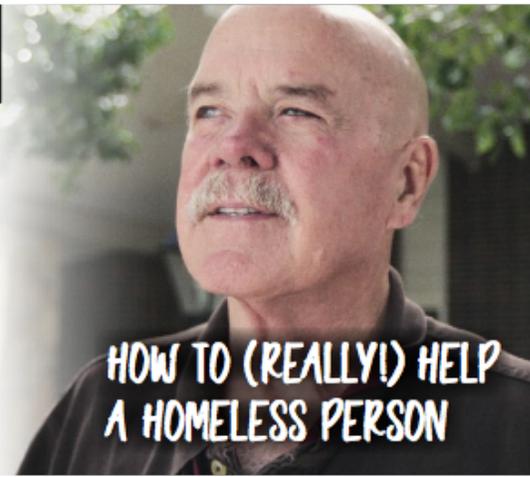
2. Be Balanced

3. Be Strategic

## We've all been there.

You walk or drive past someone holding a sign asking for help. Your heart breaks for them. But you're not sure how best to help them.

Do you give them money? What's the best way to show them true compassion?



## Here's what to do (and NOT to do) when you see a homeless person on the street.

### WHAT TO DO

#### 1. ACKNOWLEDGE THEM/TREAT THEM WITH DIGNITY

Say hello. Make eye contact. Smile. If the situation feels safe (public, in daylight), take a little time to talk with them. A brief conversation in a friendly, respectful manner often restores their dignity and may also lift their spirits, as many of them battle depression, loneliness and other struggles.

#### 2. BE PREPARED TO HELP BY GIVING FOOD/SUPPLIES

Offer an alternative to giving money by keeping "help packs" with important food and supplies in your car trunk, purse or other carry-all bag when you go out. When you encounter someone who needs help, you'll be ready!

#### 3. DIRECT THEM TO THE UNION RESCUE MISSION

Print and include the following form in your "help pack" – it lists some of the Union Rescue Mission's services and programs.

### WHAT NOT TO DO

#### 1. HAND OUT MONEY

You want to help them because your heart breaks. But the gift from your heart may go toward drugs or alcohol – exactly what you don't want! Giving them money often means they won't get the help they really need.

#### 2. GO SOMEWHERE PRIVATE

Use discernment, especially if you're alone. Stay in public areas, in daylight when possible, and make sure other people can see you. Don't give anyone a ride – it's better to provide a bus pass and directions to the Union Rescue Mission.

#### HELP IS HERE

Check out help available to you at the Union Rescue Mission.

to working people and people

### CREATE A HELP PACK!

The following form (pages 2-3) is a printable handout with important information about services and programs at the Union Rescue Mission. Combine it with a bus pass and a food item like a protein bar or crackers, and give this "help pack" to the men and women you encounter on the street.

**BY BEING PREPARED, YOU'LL OFFER HOMELESS PEOPLE REAL HELP, NOT A HANDOUT.**

1. Be Faithful

2. Be Balanced

3. Be Strategic

Acts 3:1 One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer — at three in the afternoon. <sup>2</sup> Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. <sup>3</sup> When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. <sup>4</sup> Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” <sup>5</sup> So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” <sup>7</sup> Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. <sup>8</sup> He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.