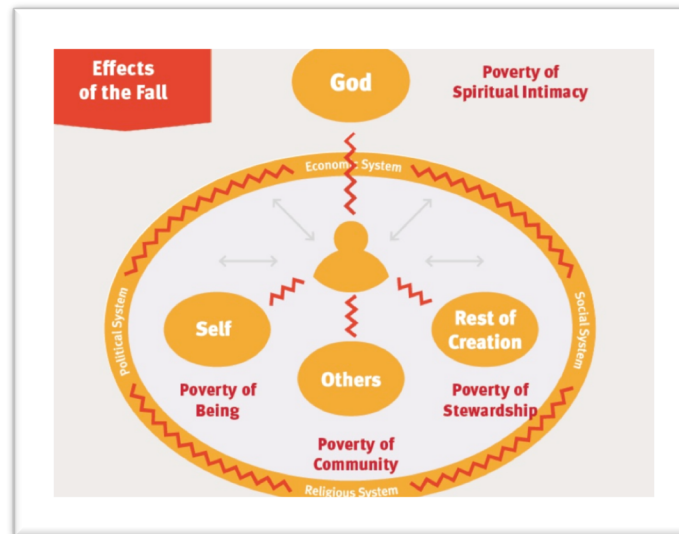


When Helping Hurts: Key Principles

Based on *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor . . . and Yourself* by Corbett and Fikkert

What is a Holistic Definition of Poverty?

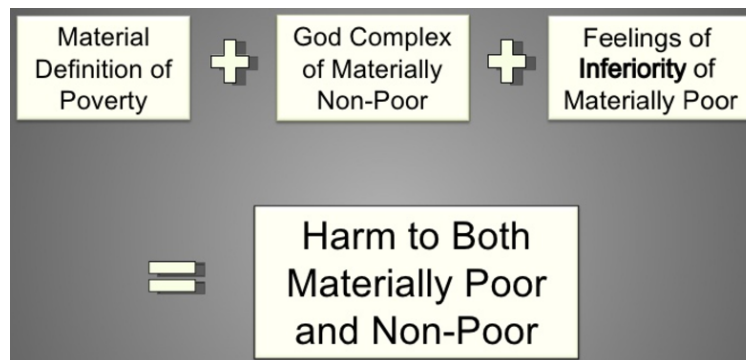
Poverty consists of broken relationships that each person has with God, self, others, and the rest of creation. This brokenness is manifest at both the individual and structural (community, national, and international) levels.



How Could Helping Actually Hurt?

Poverty alleviation consists of working – at both individual and structural levels – to reconcile those relationships. This reconciling framework has profound implications for how we design and implement poverty alleviation efforts, including: using relational approaches wherever possible; using asset-based approaches; employing participatory methods; and clearly articulating the gospel.

Harmful Approach:



Incomplete Approach:

If We Believe the Primary Cause of Poverty Is . . .	Then We Will Primarily Try to . . .
A Lack of Knowledge	Educate the Poor
Oppression by Powerful People	Work for Social Justice
The Personal Sins of the Poor	Evangelize and Disciple the Poor
A Lack of Material Resources	Give Material Resources to the Poor

Correct Approach:

Asset-based development: 4 Elements of ABCD

- **Asset-Based:**
 - Focuses on identifying and mobilizing the **capabilities, skills and resources** of the person and community.
- **Internally Focused:**
 - Look for resources and solutions from **within** the individual and community **first**.
- **Relationship Driven:**
 - Key task is to **build and rebuild the relationships** between and among local residents, local associations and local institutions.
- **Outside Resources**
 - Not too early
 - Not too much

So How Can Holistic Poverty be Alleviated?

Christ is the reconciler of all things, including the four key relationships. In this sense, Christ is the only one who can alleviate poverty in the fullest sense. Christ works through His body and bride – **the local church** – to communicate his comprehensive reconciliation to a hurting world. To fulfill its task, the local church must declare the good news of Christ's reconciliation using both words and deeds. One of the many manifestations of Christ's reconciliation is that people will be restored to what God created them to be: people who bring glory to God through working and supporting themselves and their families through that work.

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. - 2 Corinthians 5:18-20