



A PEOPLE CALLED TO LOVE

CHRISTIAN CHARITY IN NORTH AMERICAN SOCIETY

Being a Charitable People with Dr. Joel Okamoto

Study Questions:

- 1) Dr. Okamoto talks about the “human problems” that arise in charitable work when different groups of people disagree about what should be done and for whom. It what ways do such disagreements, or “people problems,” keep Christians from keeping God’s commandment to care for our neighbor?

- 2) What does Dr. Okamoto mean by “it can be risky to be righteous”? Why is the answer to that question important for an honest conversation among Christians about what is involved in showing charity to the neighbor?

- 3) Dr. Okamoto talks about the risk that those who receive charity may take advantage, either of the individual Christian or of others who are also receiving charity. What is the proper Christian response to the risk that someone might take advantage of me if I offer charity? What is the proper Christian response to someone who takes advantage of a charitable situation and in doing so harms others?

- 4) Why is it important that we, as the church, have a different story from the rest of the world as it regards our actions of love toward our neighbor?

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5) How should Christians address the questions that come up when we engage in acts of charity with other people, whether Christian or non-Christian?

6) What do you see are some of the issues or problems that Christians might have in working with people of other religions when carrying out acts of charity?