

# Methodists and Social Responsibility

Micah 6: **6** *With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? 7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? 8 He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*

Romans 12: <sup>1</sup> *Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.* <sup>2</sup> *Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

"Our Social Creed" is a basic statement of our convictions about the fundamental relationships between God, God's creation and humanity. This basic statement is expanded in a more lengthy statement called the "Social Principles." This statement explains more fully how United Methodists are called to live in the world. Part of our *Book of Discipline*, the "Social Principles" serve as a guide to official church action and our individual witness.

## **PREAMBLE**

We, the people called United Methodists, affirm our faith in God our Creator and Father, in Jesus Christ our Savior, and in the Holy Spirit, our Guide and Guard.

## THE NATURAL WORLD

We affirm that we're responsible for the way we use the Lord's creation. We support social policies that promote the wise use of water, air, soil, minerals, and plants.

We support the conservation of energy and oppose energy-using technologies that threaten human health. We're concerned for the humane treatment of animals and the respectful use of space.

## THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

All economic systems are under the judgment of God.  
We believe the private ownership of property is a trusteeship  
under God and must be responsibly managed.  
We affirm the right of safe and meaningful work and creative  
leisure.

We support efforts to ensure truth in pricing, packaging,  
lending, and advertising; and we urge people to evaluate  
their consumption of goods in the light of the quality of life.

## **World Distribution of Wealth:**

Top 8% own 79.3% of global household wealth  
Bottom 68.4% of population own 4.2% of the  
wealth.

(Credit Suisse Global Wealth Databook,)

## US Distribution of Wealth

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2007</u>
Top 1%	25.8%	33.8%
Top 10%	62.9%	71.5%
Bottom 50%	Steady at 2.5%	

**Sustainability**—being able to use resources today in order to provide our current standard of living without compromising future generations' ability to do the same. Concept of self-restraint, sensitivity for the needs of others.

# US Net Worth and Energy Use

We are #4 in net worth per capita.

Have 4.67% of world population.

Have 25.4% of the world net worth.

We consume 20% of the world's energy.

Source: Wikipedia