



## Servant's Corner

May 2015

### **Pride As A Cause Of Poverty**

By Rich Henderson, Love INC Director

It is part of God's created order for humans to need other people. A baby is hard-wired to cry when she needs her mother to nurse her. God deliberately designed the church so that no one church member would be self-sufficient but would be dependent on other members of the body. Some of the resources we need to thrive reside with other people. James' observation, "*You do not have because you do not ask*" (James 4:2b) was spoken primarily of prayer, but seems to have a broader application. There is a form of poverty that comes from being too proud to ask for help. We see it with Love INC clients who have unmet needs because they don't want to "be a burden" to friends and family members who stand ready to help them. We experience it when Contact People are reluctant to ask their fellow church members to meet a need of a Love INC client. This is despite the fact that the church member indicated on their Talent Survey that they were willing to help! Being too proud to ask for help can rob people of the blessing that comes from helping.

Jesus, the ultimate giver, was also a bold asker. For instance, when he saw that Zaccheus the tax-collector had climbed a tree to get a look at him, Jesus said, "*Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house*" (Luke 19:5). Talk about bold asking! Zaccheus' response? "*And he hurried and came down, and received Him gladly*" (Luke 19:6). Given the fact that Jesus says of their interaction at his home, "*Today salvation has come to this house*" (Luke 19:9), my guess is that Zaccheus would point to Jesus' bold request to be his house guest as one of the highlights of his life.

Are you experiencing "poverty" in some area of your life because you are too proud to ask for help? For instance, if you are experiencing relational poverty, the place to start might be to ask a potential friend if you can take them out to lunch. May the Lord give us the grace and humility to be generous givers, bold askers and gracious receivers.



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