

"uphold the cause of the poor"

Psalm 82:3

"If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?"

1 John 3:17

Christians have a duty to provide for those who can't provide for themselves or, better still, to enable them to provide for themselves. This duty applies to us as individual Christians, to churches and, as the Old Testament makes clear, to the state.

There is a consensus in Scottish politics that the welfare system should provide for the genuinely needy, while those able to should work for their living. There is dispute over the mechanisms and rates of benefits, but the principle is uncontested.

A number of factors need to be balanced: cost, incentives, adequacy and fairness. Christians can legitimately take different views.

Our unique contribution is our promotion of stable family life. Family dysfunction is a huge factor in poverty. Stronger families could drastically reduce dependency and thereby allow resources to be focussed on the remaining cases.



"When did we see you sick... ?' 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

Matthew 25:39-40:

Our nation has institutionalised the Biblical injunction to care for the sick into a National Health Service. Debate focusses on how to structure, manage and fund it. These are complex questions with no easy answers.

We wish the NHS to be well-funded and efficiently managed.



"When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself"

Leviticus 19:33-34

Equal treatment for everyone, regardless of race or origin. The aim is a unified and harmonious society, not one divided into hostile racial or national groups.

How many people we admit into our nation is a different question, but the aims of mutual harmony, respect and care are certain.



There are some policy areas where Christian teaching brings a distinctive perspective, challenging the consensus. In others, such as these, Christian teaching accords with the consensus.

"Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out."

Proverbs 10:9

God calls us to a very high standard of integrity in every area of life. Recent UK and Scottish politics have been mired in scandal and misconduct. Conventional wisdom has it that a person's values and behaviour in their private life are of no consequence to their professional life. We disagree. A person lacking faithfulness and honesty in one area of life is likely to lack them in other contexts as well.

Absolute standards of integrity should be upheld by each of us as individuals, by political parties in opposition and then by the parties in government. Where failures occur, admission and repentance should follow.

A nation suffers greatly when integrity is eroded and corruption takes its place. An overt effort to maintain and articulate high standards of integrity is necessary.

"The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."

Genesis 2: 15

We are called to steward our environment responsibly, that is clear. Some environmental issues are clear cut, others more complex. Reducing carbon emissions is a complex issue where a balance must be struck between valid competing concerns such as economic harms and their consequences for poverty levels and public services.

It's an important issue, but Biblical teaching does not help us resolve the practical dilemmas. An intelligent, honest and balanced approach is needed.

The Scottish Family Party is not a Christian party. It is a party with many policies that align with Biblical principles. While this leaflet is written for Christians in particular, we commend our policies to people of all religious faiths and none and welcome all who share our values.

The poor,
the sick,
the foreigner
and the
planet



**Scottish
Family Party**