



The Christian origins of our Kiwi Cultural views on

HEALTH CARE

What made our society so caring?

OPENING QUESTIONS:

- Did you ever pretend to be sick when you were young to get out of school? What did you do, and were you successful?
- Do you have children who have done the same?
- Have you ever been hospitalised and felt incredibly grateful for the care provided? How many thousands of dollars did you pay for that care?
- How different do you think our healthcare system might be compared to 500 years ago?

Today we are discussing our way through the sixth *Hope For All* booklet, titled **EVERYONE MATTERS**.
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BIBLICAL BASIS QUESTIONS:

- What instructions were set out for Jewish society in the Old Testament with regard to the treatment of lepers? LEVITICUS 13:1-3; 45-46; NUMBERS 12:1-15
- What mind-set did some religious Jews have towards those with illness or mishap – and how did Jesus challenge that view? JOHN 9:1-3; 24-34; LUKE 13:1-5
- What was the attitude of Jesus Christ to lepers? MATTHEW 8: 1-4; MARK 1: 40-45; LUKE 5: 12-41; JOHN 5:14
- Jesus gave His disciples a commission which involved what? MARK 16:15-18
- What was the early church's doctrine on healing? JAMES 5:13-18; 1 CORINTHIANS 11:27-20; 3 JOHN 1:2
- What was the early church's attitude toward those in need? ACTS 2:44-45

FROM OUR HISTORY [REVISION OF CONTENT IN *HOPE FOR ALL - EVERYONE MATTERS*]

- To what extent were hospitals a Christian idea?
- What is the difference between the Christian view of caring and that of ancient Rome?
- What are some of the key developments that took place that transformed the initial Christian desire to help the sick into the generous health-care our nation provides today?
- When this history is considered (including both the developments and the context within which they were enabled), is there any indication these developments would have come about without Christian faith and motivation it provides?
- In what remarkable way did Maori in our early bicultural history lead the way in treatment of their enemies, and what motivated this?

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APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

- In our nation today, a government-based healthcare system has replaced Christian charity in providing care for health needs. In what ways might Christian efforts still be needed? (Consider the various needs of the sick, elderly, isolated and 'different').
- Globally, the Christian Church is still a leader in healthcare*. Government funded health care only exists in a few nations globally. What could you do for the poor in other nations? How much will you be involved in supporting Christian aid work, and Christian mission, through the rests of your life?
- What do you learn or take away from this discussion today?

Footnote

* Secular aid workers have higher pay but much less resilience when compared to those motivated by a faith-based sense of calling. An atheist who studied aid work in Africa commented that, the further he went from the cities, the more likely it was that those offering care were Christian missionaries.