

## Christian social action – Dr John Dickson

1. John highlights four reasons why Christians are to engage in social action and address issues like poverty and injustice in the world. As you watch the talk, make notes, comments and questions in the table below.

<p><b>1. A high view of humanity</b></p> <p><sup>9</sup>With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. (James 3:9)</p>	
<p><b>2. A new view of God in Christ</b></p> <p><sup>16</sup>This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. <sup>17</sup>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? <sup>18</sup>Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. (1 John 3:16-18)</p>	

### 3. A particular view of the future

"Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
<sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.  
<sup>5</sup> Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.  
<sup>6</sup> Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for  
righteousness,  
for they will be filled.  
<sup>7</sup> Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.  
<sup>8</sup> Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.  
<sup>9</sup> Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.  
<sup>10</sup> Blessed are those who are persecuted because of  
righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
(Matthew 5:3-10)

### 4. A desire to promote the gospel

<sup>13</sup> "You are the salt of the earth . . . <sup>14</sup> You are the light  
of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.  
<sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a  
bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light  
to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your  
light shine before others, that they may see your good  
deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.  
(Matthew 5:13-16)