



Teaching Leaflet

Legacies of Care

Lesson Three: Ancient Roots of Care

“Eight Degrees of Charity”

(from lowest to highest)

Give, but with reluctance and regret. This is the gift of the hand but not of the heart.

The **second** is to give cheerfully, but not proportionately to the distress of the sufferer.

The **third** is to give cheerfully and proportionately, but not until we are solicited.

The **fourth** is to give cheerfully and proportionately, and even unsolicited; but to put it in the poor man's hand, thereby exciting in him the painful emotion of shame.

The **fifth** is to give charity in such a way that the distressed may receive the bounty and know their benefactor; without being known to him.

The **sixth**, which rises still higher; is to know the objects of our bounty, but remain unknown to them.

The **seventh** is still more meritorious, namely, to bestow charity in such a way that the benefactor may not know the relieved persons, nor they the name of their benefactor.

Lastly, the **eighth** and most meritorious of all, is to anticipate charity by preventing poverty; i.e., to assist a reduced person so that he may earn an honest livelihood and not be forced to the dreadful alternative of holding up his hand for charity. (Popple & Leighninger, p. 193)

Source:

Popple, P. R., & Leighninger, L. (2005). Social work, social welfare, and American society (6th ed.). New York: Allyn and Bacon.