

Vow of Poverty Study

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Word Studies

Vow:

Webster’s 1828 Dictionary

<http://webstersdictionary1828.com/Dictionary/Vow>

VOW, noun

1. A solemn promise made to God, or by a pagan to his deity. The Roman generals when they went to war, sometimes made a vow that they would build a temple to some favorite deity, if he would give them victory. A vow is a promise of something to be given or done hereafter.

A person is constituted as religious by taking three vows, of chastity, of poverty, and of obedience. Among the Israelites, the vows of children were not binding, unless ratified by the express or tacit consent of their father. Numbers 30:2.

2. A solemn promise; as the vows of unchangeable love and fidelity. In a moral and religious sense, vows are promises to God, as they appeal to God to witness their sincerity, and the violation of them is a most heinous offense.

VOW, verb transitive

1. To give, consecrate or dedicate to God by a solemn promise. When Jacob went to Mesopotamia, he vowed to God a tenth of this substance, and his own future devotion to his service. Genesis 28:20. When thou vowest a vow defer not to pay it. Ecclesiastes 5:4.

2. To devote.

VOW, verb intransitive:

To make vows or solemn promises. He that vows, must be careful to perform.

Strong's Number: 5088

Original Word Origin from (5087)

Transliterated Word: Neder- 1308a, Phonetic Spelling: neh'-der. Parts of Speech:

Noun Masculine Definition: vow, votive offering

Strong's Number 5087

Original Word Origin: a primitive root Transliterated Word: Nadar

Phonetic Spelling: naw-dar'

Parts of Speech: Verb

Definition:

- 1) To promise, to do or give something to
- 2) vow, make a vow,
 - a. (Qal) to vow a vow

Strong's Number 2171. euché

euché: a prayer

Part of Speech: Noun, Feminine

Phonetic Spelling: (yoo-khay')

Definition: a prayer

Usage: a prayer comprising a vow; a prayer, vow.

Poverty:

Webster's 1828 Dictionary

<http://webstersdictionary1828.com/Dictionary/Poverty>

POV'ERTY, noun [Latin paupertas. See Poor.]

1. Destitution of property; indigence; want of convenient means of subsistence. The consequence of poverty is dependence.

The drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty Proverbs 23:21.

2. Barrenness of sentiment or ornament; defect; as the poverty of a composition.

3. Want; defect of words; as the poverty of language.

Strong's Number 4432. ptócheia

Original Word: πτωχεία, ας, ἡ

Part of Speech: Noun, Feminine Phonetic Spelling: (pto-khi'-ah) Definition:

beggary, destitution Usage: beggary, poverty, destitution. See 4434

Used in 2 Cor. 8:9

Strong's Number 4434. ptóchos

Original Word: πτωχός, ἡ, óν

Part of Speech: Adjective

Phonetic Spelling: (pto-khos')

Definition: (of one who crouches and cowers, hence) beggarly, poor

Usage: poor, destitute, spiritually poor, either in a good sense (humble devout persons) or bad.

Destitute:

Webster's 1828 Dictionary:

<http://webstersdictionary1828.com/Dictionary/destitute> DESTITUTE, verb transitive

1. To forsake.
2. To deprive.

Strong's Number 5800. azab

azab: self

Part of Speech: Verb

Phonetic Spelling: (aw-zab') Definition: to leave, forsake, loose 1 leave, with accusative

2. leave, abandon, forsake

3. let loose, set free, let go

Strong's Number 3007. leipó

leipó: to leave, leave behind

Part of Speech: Verb

Phonetic Spelling: (li'-po)

Definition: to leave, leave behind

Usage: (earlier: I leave behind, abandon), (a) I am wanting, (b) mid: e.g. with gen: I come behind (in a race), am left behind in, fall short of (some standard), am wanting in.

Pertinent Scriptures for Consideration

II Corinthians 8:9-15 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich. 10) And herein I give [my] advice: for this is expedient for you, who have begun before, not only to do, but also to be forward a year ago. 11) Now therefore perform the doing [of it]; that as [there was] a readiness to will, so [there may be] a performance also out of that which ye have. 12) For if there be first a willing mind, [it is] accepted according to that a man hath, [and] not according to that he hath not. 13) For [I mean] not that other men be eased, and ye burdened: 14) But by an equality, [that] now at this time your abundance [may be a supply] for their want, that their abundance also may be [a supply] for your want: that there may be equality: 15) As it is written, He that [had gathered] much had nothing over; and he that [had gathered] little had no lack.

Philippians 3:7-11 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. 8) Yea doubtless, and I count all things [but] loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them [but] dung, that I may win Christ, 9) And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: 10) That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; 11) If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

Leviticus 20:7 Consecrate yourselves, therefore, and be holy, because I am the LORD your God.

Ephesians 1:3-14 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms. 4) For He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless in His presence. In love 5) He predestined us for adoption as His sons through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6) to the praise of His glorious grace, which He has freely given us in the Beloved One. 7) In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace 8) that He lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. 9) And He has made known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Christ 10) as a plan for the fullness of time, to bring all things in heaven and on earth together in Christ 11) In Him we were also chosen as God's own, having been predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything by the counsel of His will, 12) in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, would be for the praise of His glory. 13) And in Him, having heard and believed the word of truth—the gospel of your salvation—you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14) who is the pledge of our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession, to the praise of His glory.

I Peter: 13–17 Therefore prepare your minds for action. Be sober-minded. Set your hope fully on the grace to be given you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 14) As obedient children, do not conform to the passions of your former ignorance. 15) But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do, 16) for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”

Other Mentions of Vow of Poverty

History of Trusts

<https://www.trustarte.com/history-of-fideicommissum-trusts>

England – Realty and Unincorporated Joint Stock Companies

The legal institution known as the trust originally arose out of English land law. It developed and evolved touching on all areas of legal life. And we see the Norman Conquest in 1066 as the beginning of common law.

In the history of trusts the English trusts appear in the mid 1200's as Franciscan friars, compelled to commit to a vow of poverty during their lifetimes, were unable to own property, even their own housing. To solve this dilemma and provide housing to the clergy, local communities became trustees (legal owners in title) of dormitories where the friars lived. The use of transferring property title to a trustee became an effective method for towns and landowners to provide housing for the Friars. The stability and security of the housing could not be threatened by confiscation or death of an individual patron. This also circumvented the Statutes of Mortmain that prohibited land donations to the church without permission of the Crown. The trusts endured and the use of the housing by the Friars was guaranteed by the contractual obligation of the town.

Voluntary Poverty

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poverty#Voluntary_poverty

See also: Simple living and Evangelical counsels

Among some individuals, poverty is considered a necessary or desirable condition, which must be embraced to reach certain spiritual, moral, or intellectual states. Poverty is often understood to be an essential element of renunciation in religions such as Buddhism, Hinduism (only for monks, not for lay persons) and Jainism, whilst in Christianity in particular Roman Catholicism it is one of the evangelical counsels. The main aim of giving up things of the materialistic world is to withdraw oneself from sensual pleasures (as they are considered illusionary and only temporary in some religions – such as the concept of *dunya* in Islam). This self-invited poverty (or giving up pleasures) is different from the one caused by economic imbalance.

Some Christian communities, such as the Simple Way, the Bruderhof, and the Amish value voluntary poverty;^[274] some even take a vow of poverty, similar to that of the traditional Catholic orders, in order to live a more complete life of discipleship.^[275] Benedict XVI distinguished "poverty chosen" (the poverty of spirit proposed by Jesus), and "poverty to be fought" (unjust and imposed poverty). He considered that the moderation implied in the former favors solidarity, and is a necessary condition so as to fight effectively to eradicate the abuse of the latter.^[276]

As it was indicated above the reduction of poverty results from religion, but also can result from solidarity. ^[277]

Nuns: Origin and History <https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/11164a.htm>

The vow of poverty does not generally forbid the acquisition and retention of rights over property, but only its free use and disposal.

The Vow of Poverty and the Vow of Devotion <https://borgenproject.org/vow-poverty-vow-devotion>

In an age where the acquisition of wealth and all of its shiny, glossy and overpriced accompaniments dominates the American dream, groups of individuals around the world elect to relinquish their worldly possessions, embracing a life of material destitution. Individuals who take the formal vow of poverty typically belong to a religious order, specifically, the Catholic faith.

The vow of poverty is often accompanied by the vow of chastity and the vow of obedience. Together, these three vows comprise the evangelical counsels. When an individual takes the vow of poverty, he or she chooses to renounce personal worldly possessions and instead engage in communal sharing of resources.

However, there is variation in the vow of poverty. For instance, the vow may abide by the vow for an extended or a limited amount of time. The vow may also apply to different classes of property rather than property as a whole. Additionally, the vow may

apply to goods available in the present or goods expected in the future. Oftentimes, the vow entails the loss of rights over one's personal industry. For instance, in certain cases, the vow of poverty rebukes the acceptance of any personal material profit, such as profits from labor.

In the Catholic faith, men and women have attempted to devote their lives to God through partaking in the evangelical counsels. In doing so, these individuals follow in the path of Jesus, whose life was defined by detachment from earthly possessions and earthly pleasures. Symbolically, the evangelical counsels represent an individual's determination to resist, what religious organizations often view as, the temptations and perils of modern society.

Although individuals who take the vow of poverty renounce their non-sacred material possessions, they elect to secure spiritual, reputational, and humanitarian wealth instead. Furthermore, these individuals profess that God is the source of all wealth and therefore materialism distracts people from focusing on God.

Furthermore, another perspective motivating people to take the vow of poverty is the sheer inequality in the world. Rather than simply acknowledging the existence of poverty, individuals who take the vow gain first-hand experience, an experience that may better equip them to aid the poor in the future.

– *Phoebe Pradhan*

IRS (which we have no obligation to as a Faith Based PMA)

Publication 517 (2020), Social Security ... - IRS tax forms
[Search domain irs.gov] <https://www.irs.gov/publications/p517>

Vow of poverty. If you are a member of a religious order and have taken a vow of poverty, you are already exempt from paying SE tax on your earnings for ministerial services you perform as an agent of your church or its agencies. You don't need to request a separate exemption. For income tax purposes, the earnings are tax free to you.

About Form SS-16, Certificate of Election ... - IRS tax forms

[Search domain irs.gov] <https://www.irs.gov/forms-pubs/about-form-ss-16>

Information about Form SS-16 including recent updates, related forms, and instructions on how to file. This form is used by a religious order or autonomous subdivision of a religious order whose members are required to take a vow of poverty to certify it elects social security and Medicare coverage for services its members perform.

Workers Religious Clergy and and Other - IRS tax forms
<https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p517.pdf>