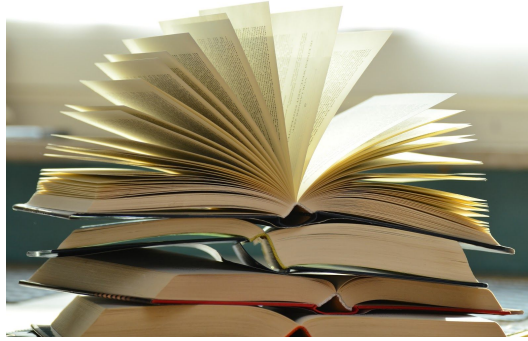


-Reflection Questions-



Toxic Charity, by Robert D. Lupton

1. Robert Lupton challenges us to move out of our comfort zone to help the poor. Especially as Americans this can be really tricky when we don't see poverty up close. Does your life bring you into proximity with people in need? What is one baby step you can take this month to get more proximate to the needy? What step can you take toward developing a relationship with the other?
2. If you give regularly to charitable organizations have you researched how they are engaging relationally with those they help? Is the organization engaging in relief, development, or both? Does the organization have a way to measure impact?
3. If you are directly involved with helping those in need (volunteering etc), is your work in the area of relief, development, or both? Does this work allow you to build long term relationships with those you are serving?
4. To what area of service, if any, do you feel called?
5. After hearing Bono's challenge to the Church to join the fight against HIV Aids and extreme poverty at the Global Leadership Summit in 2006, Scott and some friends prayed a dangerous prayer: "God, show us how we can engage in fighting HIV Aids and extreme poverty. We don't know how to get involved. Lead us in the next steps." Do you dare to pray this way?
6. Leaving the comfort of our homes and social circles, to engage with people different than us can be painfully awkward. How do you handle this challenge?
7. If you are part of a faith community, how does the organization allocate benevolence funds? Are funds going to relief programs, development, or both? Can you speak into this in your faith community?