

Session: Wealth & Responsibility

Main Line Unitarian Church, Devon, PA, submitted by Stephen Hughes, June 2019

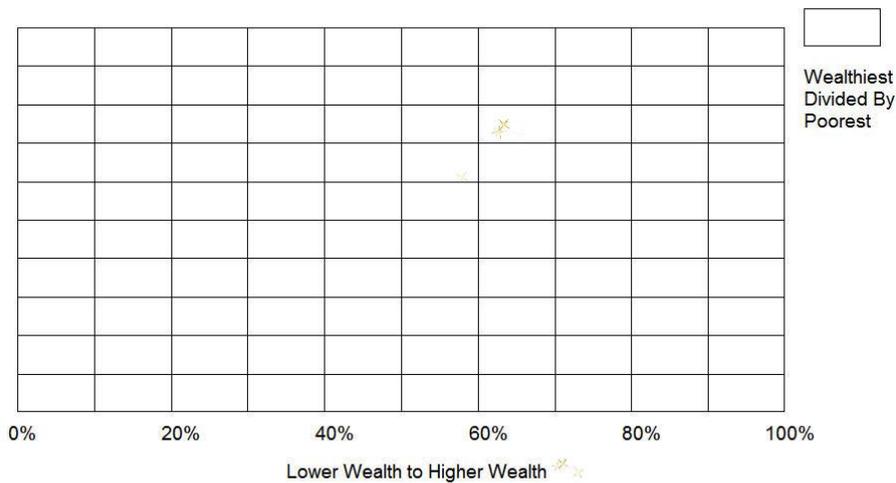
Opening Words & Chalice Lighting

Money won't make you happy...but everybody wants to find out for themselves.

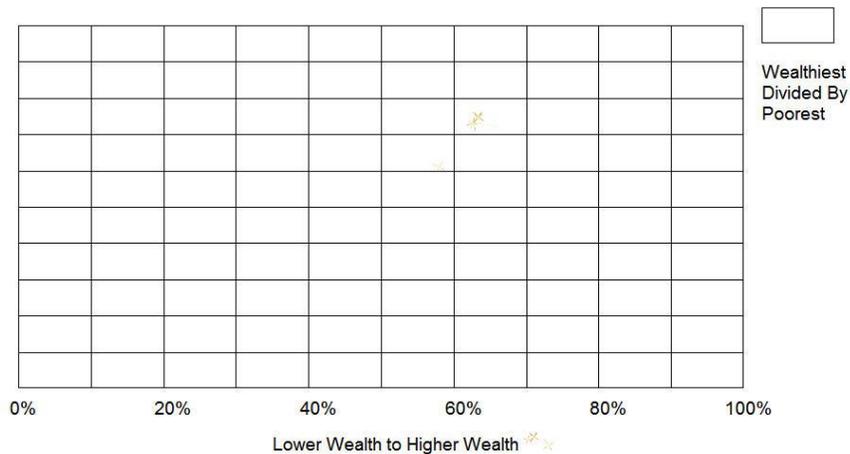
- Zig Zigler

Check-in: Briefly rate your feelings of financial wellbeing.

Warm Up "Questions"



Above is an empty graph showing the lowest relative wealth on the left and the highest relative wealth on the right. On this graph fill in what you think the distribution of wealth should ideally look like. You can place dots at the appropriate level at each 10% (10%, 20%, etc.) and then draw in the shape through those dots. Then place a number in the upper right rectangle of the ratio of the wealthiest over the poorest.



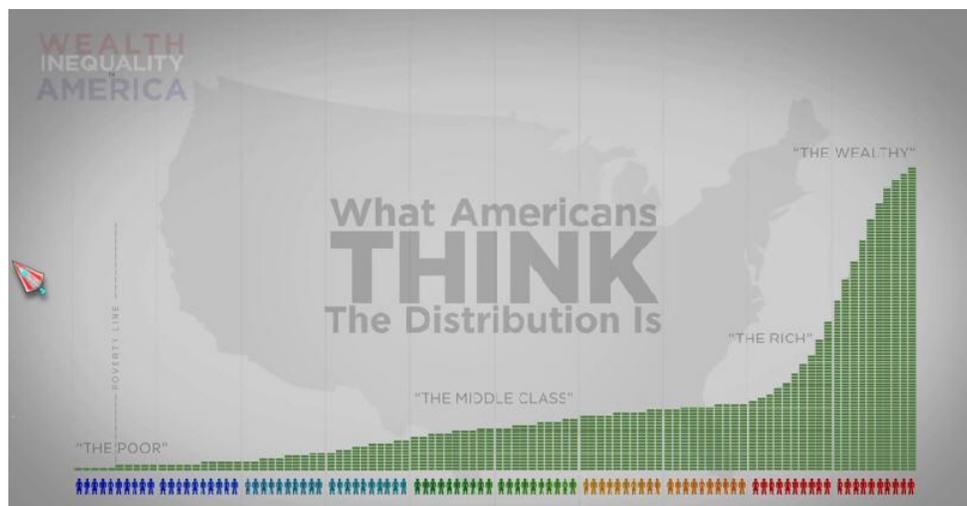
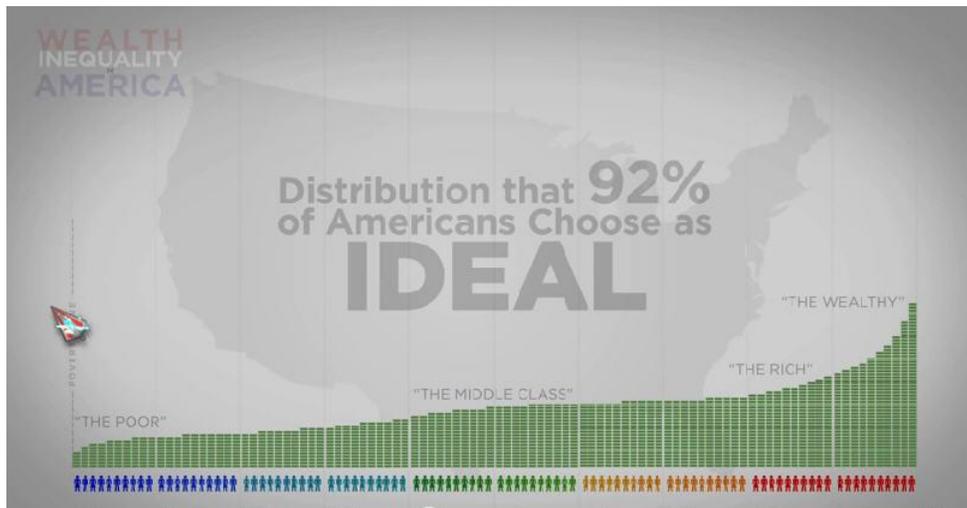
Now do this again, but fill in the graph with what you think the numbers would actually be for the United States.

Focus Information

Watch the YouTube video on the Internet called Wealth Inequality In America.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QPKKQnijnsM>

If you can't watch it, the main graphics are shown below, illustrating what Americans think the United States wealth distribution: 1) should be ideally, 2) actually is, and 3) really is.



Focus Questions

- 1 How did your ideal wealth distribution compare to your actual wealth distribution?
- 2 How did your graphs compare to the graphs of Americans in general?
- 3 What is your “gut” reaction to the actual wealth distribution in the United States?
- 4 What level of the ratio of the wealthiest over the poorest would seem fair to you?
- 5 Do organized religions find this wealth inequity unfair, disturbing, sinful, or unhealthy?
- 6 What is the cause of this income distribution? Would it be helped by more personal spirituality?
- 6 What do you feel are the wealthiest people’s responsibility to make this situation more equitable?
- 8 Do you have any ideas how the government could help rectify the situation?
- 9 Is this income distribution inevitable in our type of capitalistic society?

Check-out/Likes & Wishes: *Did you feel some righteous indignation during this session?*

Closing Words & Extinguishing Chalice:

Modern man, if he dared to be articulate about his concept of heaven, would describe a vision which would look like the biggest department store in the world, showing new things and gadgets, and himself having plenty of money with which to buy them. He would wander around open-mouthed in this heaven of gadgets and commodities, provided only that there were ever more and newer things to buy, and perhaps that his neighbors were just a little less privileged than he.

~Eric Fromm – *The Sane Society*

Money doesn’t make you happy. I now have \$50 million, but I was just as happy when I had \$48 million.

~Arnold Schwarzenegger

If you want to know what God thinks of money, just look at the people he gave it to.

~Dorothy Parker

