



Unclean Water

Quick Facts from *Zealous Love: A Practical Guide to Social Justice*

“Water insecurity violates some of the most basic principles of social justice.”¹

Overview

Water is life.

After air, it’s the most essential bodily requirement. All of our bodies’ mechanisms—the digestive system, the urinary tract, the skin, the eyes—depend on water. The average human can survive only about three days without water.

More than 70 percent of the earth’s surface area is covered by water. Depending on your age, gender, and health, between 50 and 60 percent of your body’s weight is water.

Though most of us in developed countries don’t think twice about watering our lawns or taking long showers, billions of people around our world don’t have the luxury of being so careless with this essential resource.



Quick Facts

- Over 1.1 billion people in our world don't have access to clean water.²
- Over 2.6 billion people who lack adequate sanitation and hygiene.³
- Every day nearly five thousand children die from water-related illnesses—that means one child dies approximately every twenty seconds.⁴
- Even if the Millennium Development Goals are achieved, there will still be over 800 million people without access to clean water and over 1.8 billion people without basic sanitation in 2015.⁵

For more information, or to join in the conversation, please visit:

www.ZealousLove.org

1 United Nations Development Programme, *Beyond Scarcity: Power, poverty and the global water crisis*, Human Development Report 2006, p. 3, <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2006/>

2 Ibid., 2.

3 Ibid., 3.

4 Ibid., 6.

5 Ibid., 4.