

CAPITALISM & THE BIBLE

This article is a response to an email from a precious lady who wondered about capitalism, viewing it as evil. As I reflected on her message, I dug a little deeper into what the Bible says about it. I came to understand that the pure idea of capitalism actually comes from the Kingdom of God and is found in the Bible. Of course, with the understanding that God is almighty and our source.

Here is the dictionary definition: "An economic and social system in which capital, the source of income, and the means of production and exchange generally belong to private individuals."

We see this principle already in Genesis 1:27-30, when God gave the earth to man.

"The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD's; But the earth He has given to the children of men. ". Psalm 115:16 NKJV

God gave man everything, then commanded him to manage it well, to protect it, and also to multiply it. Jesus also explains this principle in the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 19:12-27). A master, who represented God, entrusted his possessions to three of his servants. To one he gave five, to another two, and finally one to the last servant.

The one who multiplied the five received double, the same for the one who had received two, but the last one rested on his laurels and buried what the master had entrusted to him. The way the master reacted would make many socialists or communists scream. The master took the talent that this man had refused to multiply and entrusted it to the one who already had ten.

Whaaaaat??? But why???

I think that capitalism, at its root, is man's duty, even an innate desire to multiply and increase what we receive. Of course, sin came to earth and corrupted men. Greed and avarice spread to the detriment of this God-given principle of capitalism and stewardship. The only way a nation and its inhabitants can prosper is when they are free to do so.

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob would NOT have been very popular among socialists; they even aroused jealousy because they were capitalists, in the truest sense of the word. God has always wanted man to be free, free to prosper or not, even free to reject God. Unfortunately, socialism, which is merely a step toward communism, aims to take this freedom away from man.

By definition, these ideologies hold that the State will collect and decide who should have what and how much; it should no longer be the individual. This is fundamentally unbiblical because God is a God of freedom.

You might refer to the passage in Acts 4:32-35, where they had everything in common and the apostles received goods and money from the believers to redistribute to widows, orphans, and the needy. Did you notice that this happened in the church, not a government. It was also voluntary; it came from the generosity of the people, not by coercion, never by force. Believers wanted to give and have things in common because they were under the influence of the Holy Spirit, not a totalitarian regime, which, under the pretext of the common good, seeks to control everything, even those it claims to help. The principles of socialism and communism always control and suppress citizens' freedom.

So, if you were to ask me, I think God is more of a capitalist than we think. He loves freedom, He loves abundance, he loves prosperity.

To this precious lady, I will say thank you again for daring to share your opinion and your ideas. It definitely made me think and learn a whole lot more from the Bible.

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