



What the Bible teaches concerning Socialism and Capitalism

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In this day with so many different teachings and beliefs coming from so many various sources it is of utmost importance to go to the only reliable source for the correct answer. The Word of God (The King James Bible).

Defined:

- Socialism- A political and economic theory of social organization which advocates that the means of production, distribution, and exchange should be owned or regulated by the community as a whole.
- Capitalism- An economic and political system in which a country's trade and industry are controlled by private owners for profit, rather than by the state.

The claim is often made that Jesus Christ taught socialism. Others claim the opposite that Christ condemned socialism and instead taught capitalism. In reality there is no need for confusion on the matter as God's Word gives us many passages that deal with work and finances.

First of all we must make clear that God only has one chosen nation and that is Israel, contained within the law of Moses are the only verses God wrote to any nation concerning government, God's Word is written for mankind not for governments. Before we search out socialism vs capitalism verses lets establish three truths.

1. Christ did not involve Himself in the governments business **Mark 12:13-17**
2. Christ's concern and message was to either the nation of Israel or the church, not the government **John 10:14-16**
3. A government system based upon God's Word though it would be best would never survive as those who do not believe in God would never follow His rules, even Israel constantly struggled to. **Nehemiah 9:15-31**

Christ's messages to the church do give insight as to which method of governance is closer aligned with scripture.

Concerning work

Capitalism promotes individual effort and labor where a man will not advance without work, socialism in seeking to equalize wealth by distribution provides incentives not to work such as unemployment, disability for those still able to work, housing benefits, food stamps, welfare, etc. All of which are funded through the taxation of those working.

What does scripture say about work?

1. Duty to work **2nd Thessalonians 3:10-12, 1st Timothy 5:8** welfare, handouts, etc take help if needed don't refuse to work if able.
2. Workers rights fulfil agreed upon contract- **Matthew 20:1-15, Colossians 3:22-23**
3. Employers rights fulfil agreed upon contract- Same passages

Concerning wealth, the socialist claim is that no one should be wealthy all should be equal and if your wealthy you must be evil which justifies us taking money from you for redistribution by force.

What does the scripture say?

1. A man has a right to his own wealth. Wealth is never called evil in God's Word, the warning is found in **1st Timothy 6:10** the love of money. A great example for this fact is Job, **Job 1:1-3** also **Job 42:10** this man was called perfect by God and was very wealthy and after being tried and remaining faithful to God the Lord restored and doubled his wealth! Wealth in itself is not bad or evil otherwise how would tracts be printed how would churches be planted? It is what you do with your wealth that matters.

NOTE: Refusal to pay taxes is not Christian remember **Mark 12:13-17**? How about, **1st Peter 2:13-15**.

2. It is true that forced removal of one's wealth to pay for another's poverty is theft. BUT REMEMBER; You cannot expect Godliness and morality from Government, our job as Christians isn't to make government more Christlike it's to make ourselves more Christlike... We cannot allow the governments sin to cause us to sin and we especially cannot hide behind serving God rather than man for something like taxes. When the government bans the Bible, disobey when the government bans public preaching, disobey when the government says pay your taxes, use democracy to fight it if you wish that's our right but God does not grant us clemency to disobey laws we simply do not like.

Christ paid taxes to a corrupt wicked Roman government...

Concerning the church

The argument that Christ taught socialism almost always comes from **Acts 2:42-46**, yet we must not miss the context. God's Word is not speaking of a governmental body but a church body. Giving within the church whether it be offerings or assistance to a brother is ALWAYS voluntary. **2nd Corinthians 9:7** *"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."* The only reason this type of system works within the body of Christ is because of the love the brethren have for the Lord and each other- **Philippians 2:3-5** *"Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:"*

When it comes to socialism vs Capitalism neither are perfect, but one stands in direct contrast to God's Word. Socialism is not only not taught by Christ it is condemned by God's Word in areas of taking money not earned, work ethic, wealth and a lack of personal freedom.

Even in Heaven when there is no more sin no more death no more decay; Every man will have rewards given them by God based upon their works here on earth. **Matthew 5:12, 10:41, 16:27, 1st Corinthians 3:8** In short, mankind will NEVER be equal because God created us unique and rewards us (not saves us) based upon the work we do, the obedience we show, the faith we have.

Nothing in life is free except the grace of God given to all who will believe on Jesus Christ. **Romans 3:24** *"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:"*