

“SOCIALISM, CAPITALISM & THE KINGDOM OF GOD - PART 1”

Pastor Mark Johnson

INTRO: The current political battle is largely about socialism vs. capitalism! The kingdom of God is not socialistically or capitalistically governed, but rather theocratically governed! In other words, both socialism and capitalism have to do with two different ways mankind is governed by mankind, whereas theocracy is how mankind is governed by God. Ultimately the kingdom of God is governed by God, not by mankind. There are elements of both socialism and capitalism that are reflected in the culture of the kingdom of God. Neither socialism nor capitalism can truly reflect the kingdom of God culture if not submitted to God!!!

GENERATIONAL BIASES. Many older people side with capitalism while many younger people with socialism.

CULTURAL SHIFT. Over the past few decades there's been a gradual shift away from capitalism and towards socialism.

MIXTURE. Most economies have some mixture of socialism and capitalism, while one is more pre-dominate.

SCRIPTURES: Isa. 5:20; Hos. 4:6; John 8:32; Col. 2:8; Rom. 1:18, 21-22; Matt. 6:33; etc.

SOCIALISM – an economic and political system where government controls most everything.

CAPITALISM - an economic and political system in which the production of goods and services is based on supply and demand in a free market.

What are socialism & capitalism's upsides and downsides?

What are the moral implications of each?

OLD & NEW TESTAMENT ECONOMICS (Matt. 26:6-13; Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-35; 5:4; 1Tim. 5:3-16; 6:1-2, 9-12, 17-18).

CONCLUSION: From a kingdom of God perspective, we should take personal responsibility to care and provide for ourselves, be generous towards the poor and those unable to take care of themselves, and avoid selfishness, greed and taking advantage of others.