Economics: Capitalism vs Socialism

The gods We Imagine—part 8

November 15, 2026

Review of "The gods We Imagine"

*Psalm 119:130 The unfolding of Your words gives light; it imparts **<u>understanding</u>** to the simpleton (utopian).*

The "gods" We Imagine are rooted, not in reality
but in the world we want it to be.

What is socialism's appeal?

Biblical economics

Specifics

- **Integrity, honesty, fair dealings vs. bribes, cheating**

Proverbs 10:2 Treasures gained by wickedness do not profit, but righteousness delivers from death.

Proverbs 11:1 A false balance is an abomination to the Lord, but a just weight is his delight.

Prov. 14:27 Whoever is greedy for unjust gain troubles his own household, but he who hates bribes will live.

Prov. 16:11 A just balance and scales are the Lord's; all the weights in the bag are his work.

- **Diligence, toil vs laziness, slothfulness, the sluggard, slack hand, fantasy, mere talk**

Proverbs 10:4 A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.

Proverbs 12:11 Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits lacks sense.

Proverbs 12:27 Whoever is slothful will not roast his game, but the diligent man will get precious wealth.

Proverbs 14:23 In all toil there is profit, but mere talk tends only to poverty.

Proverbs 18:9 Whoever is slack in his work is a brother to him who destroys.

Proverbs 18:15 Slothfulness casts into a deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger.

Proverbs 20:4 The sluggard does not plow in the autumn; he will seek at harvest and have nothing.

Proverbs 20:13 Don't Love sleep lest you come to poverty; open your eyes and you will have plenty…

- **Savings, prudence vs naivete**

Prov. 10:5 He who gathers in summer is a prudent son, but he who sleeps in harvest is a son who brings shame.

Pro. 13:11 Wealth gained hastily will dwindle, but whoever gathers little by little will increase it.

- **Generosity, others vs. stinginess**

Proverbs 11:24 One gives freely yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give and only suffers want. ***25*** *Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.*

Prov. 14:31 Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him.

Pro 19:17 Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed

Acts 2:45 …they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.

- **Contentment**

Prov. 13:25 The righteous has enough to satisfy his appetite, but the belly of the wicked suffers want.

Ecclesiastes 5:10 Whoever loves money never has enough. Whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income.

Prov. 16:8 Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues with injustice.

- **Personal responsibility, personal incentive, internal motivation, a better future vs. "What's in it for me?", external motivation**

Prov. 16:26 A worker's appetite works for him; his mouth urges him on.

1 Timothy 5:8 If anyone does not provide for his own relatives, and especially for his own family he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever

Galatians 6:5 For each one must bear his own load.

- **To honor God, as His steward**

Colossians 3:23 Whatever task you must do, work as if your soul depends on it, as for the Lord and not for humans, [24] since you know that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you serve the Lord Christ.

Genesis 1:28 God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

Major themes and emphases

- Personal responsibility
- Private property
- Individual liberty and stewardship
- Limited role of government
- The nature of human beings
- Incentive: opportunity, consequences
- Integrity: blessing, cursing
- Individual generosity

Economic socialism

What is socialism? The supremacy of the state over the individual

- Based on a Utopian dream
- The drive for a more "just" and "fair" society ("Equality")
- State ownership of business, goods, services
- Economic system based on class warfare
- Redistribution of wealth
- Government dependency
- The elites "know better"

Governmental socialism

The bigger dangers of socialism

Major contrasts: biblical economics vs socialism

- A realistic view of human nature
- Personal responsibility, not economic dependency.
- Legitimacy of personal property
- Importance of incentive
- Limited government matters
- Voluntary generosity vs forced generosity
- Opportunity over governmental "control"
- The ultimate metric? History