

## IN THE EARLY CHURCH

1. Charitable giving was voluntary. Remember that coerced “giving” isn’t giving at all, nor is it charity.
2. Ownership of assets was not transferred unless and until the one who originally possessed those assets donated or sold them.
3. Government was not involved, nor was the community of believers considered to be owner of anything not donated.
4. Gifts were made to the church; those making donations “laid them at the apostles’ feet” (Acts 4:35).
5. Property rights were explicitly affirmed.

These items are consistent with the principles characteristic of the free enterprise system.