

Principles of Economic Liberty: The Biblical Case for Free Enterprise

A Six-Session Bible Study based on the Word Foundations Series of Articles Titled “The Bible and Free Enterprise”

SESSION 1 SURVEYING THE ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE: A CLASH OF WORLDVIEWS

- Discussion: What is the purpose of government?
- A lesson from history: The Pilgrims’ 2-year experiment with socialism
- Definitions of key terms
- Socialism’s dismal track record
- Economics is a worldview issue
- Discussion: Does the Bible recommend socialism?
- Biblical basis for individual freedom

SESSION 2 ORDERED LIBERTY

PRINCIPLES ONE AND TWO

Session 2 will explore these principles and show how they are tied to biblical truths and ideals.

- Capitalism is not economic anarchy but is maintained in the context of an ordered freedom that Scripture upholds and makes possible.
- The voluntary relationships and the voluntary involvement of individuals that make capitalism work are antithetical to government orchestration of private decisions and actions. Scripture affirms personal freedom in the economic realm.

SESSION 3 HUMAN DIGNITY

PRINCIPLES THREE AND FOUR

Session 3 will explore these principles and show how they are tied to biblical truths and ideals.

- A free enterprise economic model rests on the principle that people have inherent human rights consistent with their having been created by God “in His image.”
- In the context of a free market economy, workers and supervisors, buyers and sellers, producers and consumers — all who participate — can act to fulfill the cultural

commission God gave the human race in Genesis 1:28.

SESSION 4 INDIVIDUAL CHOICE

PRINCIPLES FIVE AND SIX

Session 4 will explore these principles and show how they are tied to biblical truths and ideals.

- Both capitalism and Scripture affirm the individual sovereignty of human beings, including their right to make decisions.
- The right to be free is an integral part of free enterprise — and a right upheld in God’s Word.

SESSION 5 PROPERTY RIGHTS

PRINCIPLES SEVEN AND EIGHT

Session 5 will explore these principles and show how they are tied to biblical truths and ideals.

- The right to hold property is an inherent, God-given right and a principle on which the United States of America was founded. Scripture affirms property rights in various places, including the Eighth and Tenth Commandments.
- The right to exchange what one owns for something else is an essential principle making capitalism work. Moreover, we see it clearly in many places in Scripture.

SESSION 6 DIVINE GUARDRAILS

PRINCIPLES NINE AND TEN

Session 6 will explore these principles and show how they are tied to biblical truths and ideals.

- The system of morality that capitalism presupposes is entirely biblical.
- Scripture recognizes the delicate balance between order and liberty so necessary for the smooth operation of the free market. It also provides the means for maintaining this balance.

Note: Most of the ten principles highlighted in this series of articles and in the Bible study are derived from a paragraph written by theologian and Christian educator Ronald Nash. Visit <https://t.ly/K84Hv>. This Bible study series is available at <https://t.ly/RuLXR>. — Copyright © 2021 by B. Nathaniel Sullivan. All rights reserved.