

Socialism or a Republic?

At first blush, Socialism sounds like a good thing. Many see it as a nice way for all of us to work together, pool our productivity, and then live from that pool together. **Karl Marx**, the Father of Communism, said:

“From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs.”¹

That sounds attractive, doesn't it? After all, sometimes I have needs that I cannot meet and you have abilities I don't have so I can have my needs met based on your abilities and productivity. BTW, if you research the life of Karl Marx, you will find that he was a total leech. He lived off of the benevolence of wealthy friends. He did NOTHING to contribute to the productivity of society. He had needs, they had ability. That is the way of Socialistic and Communistic leadership. The people become the slaves to the ruling class and the ruling class lives off of their productivity. They have needs, the people have ability.

The trouble with the idea of Socialism is Human Nature. The reason the Constitution was written was to protect the people from the government. This is because our Framers knew Human Nature and the lust for power and control. All you have to do to see the wisdom of these men is step back and look at all of the governmental overreach going on RIGHT NOW.

Our nature wants something for nothing or at least something great for little investment. Did you know the Pilgrims tried Socialism? It failed for them just as it does everywhere, just ask Venezuela and then tell me why America should go Socialist. Oh yeah, because we will do it correctly, unlike all of the buffoon nations who couldn't get it right. Pilgrim Governor William Bradford explained that one of the drawbacks to their Platonic Socialism experiment was that it diminished mutual respect between people. The incompetent and shirkers felt equal to the hard workers and the workers resented providing for them without compensation instead of for their own families.

After much debate, Bradford established the biblical concept of private property. The Ten Commandments, in **Exodus 20:17**(ESV) make it clear that we are to own property even though people associated with Karl Marx want to abolish it. Notice the text:

“You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.”

The Pilgrims tried to follow scripture as much as possible because they had a biblical worldview of life. They believed and took to heart what Bible says in passages like **2 Thessalonians 3:10** (ESV):

If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.

Socialism had caused hardship and shortages (just like today). Once the Platonic Socialism experiment ceased and the Pilgrims embraced private property and free enterprise they prospered. Instead of shirking, families worked their land enthusiastically because they were providing for their needs, not the needs of others. As a result, they had abundance, so much that they could sell their excess crops to England for nice profits.

I ran across these definitions of Socialism²

¹ Karl Marx, Critique of Gotha Program, 1875.

² The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, 5th Edition

1. Any of various theories or systems of social organization in which the means of producing and distributing goods is owned collectively or by a centralized government that often plans and controls the economy.
2. The stage in Marxist-Leninist theory intermediate between capitalism and communism, in which the means of production are collectively owned but a completely classless society has not yet been achieved.

Which system seems more biblical, Socialism or Free Enterprise? Jesus repeatedly talked about productivity, wealth, and private property. The Rich Young Ruler comes to mind in **Matthew 19:16-30**. Jesus did not criticize him for his personal wealth but for his failure to put God first. Socialism takes away personal responsibility and productivity and places it in the hands of a few who control the nation. Those few become the government and the government becomes a god to dole out rights to the commoners.

Someone might ask, "What about those in need?" The Bible says we are to provide for them. **James 1:27** reminds us that pure religion isn't how we do worship services, but how we care for those in need. But, that is a voluntary action that is provoked by the Holy Spirit and the desire to love our neighbors as ourselves (**Leviticus 19:18; Acts 2:44; 4:32**). It is God-controlled, not government-decreed.

Obviously there is much more to be said. We will look more at Socialism and Communism in the days ahead. In the meantime. . .

Keep The Light of God's Guidance Burning!