



FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

51 North Franklin Road • Indianapolis, IN 46219 • 317.897.1298

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 29, 2020

IN THE PAST MONTH I AM SURE THAT YOU HAVE READ, WATCHED, AND TAKEN PART IN MANY CONVERSATIONS ABOUT WHAT IS GOING ON IN OUR CULTURE RIGHT NOW. ONE OF THE MAINSTREAM CONVERSATIONS THAT KEEPS POPPING UP FROM MY CHRISTIAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS ON SOCIAL MEDIA IS AN ECONOMIC REFORM THAT LEANS TOWARDS SOCIALISM (THE IDEA THAT THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE SHOULD OWN AND REGULATE PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION, AND EXCHANGE).

I AM NOT GOING TO GET INTO THE POLITICS OF THIS DISCUSSION, BUT ONLY IF IT IS BIBLICAL. IN FACT, MANY AMERICANS (ALMOST 25%) BELIEVE THAT JESUS PREFERS SOCIALISM. JESUS DID CONFRONT MONEY CHANGES (JOHN 2) AND CHALLENGE HIS FOLLOWERS TO GIVE TO THE NEEDY (LUKE 3:10-11; ACTS 20:35 & HEBREWS 13:16). ARE VERSES LIKE THESE GROUNDS FOR A SOCIALISTIC ECONOMY AND SOCIETY?

AT ITS SURFACE LEVEL SOCIALISM SOUNDS COMPASSIONATE, BUT AT ITS ROOTS IT IS OPPOSITE OF EVERYTHING THAT CHRISTIANITY TEACHES. MANY AGREE THAT WE ARE IN NEED OF REFORM, BUT THIS IS NOT WHAT WE SHOULD BE DESIRING AS CHRISTIANS. I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DISCUSS EVERY TOPIC AT THIS POINT. NOR IS THIS BY ANY MEANS AN IN DEPTH REVIEW.

SOCIALISM IS BASED ON A MATERIALISTIC WORLDVIEW. KARL MARX BELIEVED THAT MATERIAL CONTAINED POWER AND BY NATURE ELIMINATED A CREATOR. IN A SOCIETY WHERE THE GOAL IS TO OBTAIN THE SAME MATERIAL AS EVERYONE ELSE TO BE CONSIDERED WORTHY IN MAN'S EYES (AND YOUR OWN) ELIMINATES THE DEPRAVITY OF MAN IN NEEDING A LOVING SAVIOR (MARK 10:17-27). I JOHN 2:15 SAYS, DO NOT LOVE THE WORLD NOR THE THINGS IN THE WORLD. IF ANYONE LOVES THE WORLD, THE LOVE OF THE FATHER IS NOT IN HIM.

IN TODAY'S CHRISTIAN-AMERICAN SOCIETY WE ARE LOSING WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE TO BE COMPLETELY DEPENDENT UPON THE LORD (PHIL 4:11), WHO IS DEFINITELY NOT MATERIAL. WHEN OUR FOCUS TO FIX MAN'S PROBLEMS BECOMES MATERIAL, WE LOSE FOCUS OF MAN'S REAL PROBLEM – HE IS A SINNER. UNTIL SIN IS FIXED, THERE ARE ALWAYS GOING TO BE INEQUALITIES. THE CHRISTIAN'S FOCUS SHOULD NOT BE ON WHAT HE CAN GAIN BECAUSE HE BELIEVES HE HAS HUMAN RIGHTS, BUT ONLY ON WHAT HE CAN GIVE BECAUSE HE HAS BIBLICAL RESPONSIBILITY.

SOCIALISM SEEKS TO TAKE FROM THOSE WITH ABILITY AND GIVE TO THOSE WHO HAVE NEEDS. AT SURFACE LEVEL THIS SOUNDS NICE, EXCEPT GOD DOES HOLD ACCOUNTABLE THOSE WHO RECEIVE AID (I TIM 5:10 & II THESS 3:10). ONE OF THE MAIN REASON'S GOVERNMENTS FAIL TO BE ABLE TO HELP EVERYONE IS BECAUSE BIBLICALLY, HELPING AND TAKING CARE OF OTHERS IS A FAMILY MATTER (I TIM 5:8).

SOCIALISM SAYS, "THOSE WHO HAVE MORE SHOULD BE WILLING TO GIVE WHAT THEY HAVE TO HELP THOSE WHO HAVE LITTLE". AGAIN, THIS SOUNDS VERY BIBLICAL, BUT SOCIALISM



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DOES NOT WAIT FOR THOSE WITH MORE TO HUMBLY GIVE, IT WILL TAKE – THIS IS CALLED STEALING. EPHESIANS 4:28 SAYS, HE WHO STEALS MUST STEAL NO LONGER; BUT RATHER HE MUST LABOR, PERFORMING WITH HIS OWN HANDS WHAT IS GOOD, SO THAT HE WILL HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE WITH ONE WHO HAS NEED. EXTREME SOCIALISM DOES NOT BELIEVE IN PRIVATE PROPERTY. THE BIBLE MOST ASSUREDLY DOES, OR THERE WOULD BE NO NEED FOR PASSAGES (THE 8TH COMMANDMENT) TO EVEN TALK ABOUT STEALING SOMEONE'S PROPERTY. IN FACT, AS EPH 4 SAYS, YOU SHOULD WANT TO WORK TO HELP THOSE. STEALING IS ONLY THINKING ABOUT YOURSELF WHILE WORKING SHOULD BE THINKING ABOUT OTHERS.

THIS TYPE OF LIVING ONLY PROMOTES ENVY AND STRIFE. THE BIBLE NEVER CONDEMNS MAN FOR BEING WEALTHY ANY MORE THAN IT CONDEMNS MEN FOR BEING POOR. IT CONDEMNS MAN FOR BEING SINFUL AND SATAN LOVES TO TAKE OUR MINDS AWAY FROM THAT BY PLACING IT ON THE PRIDE OF MONEY. 1 TIMOTHY 6:10 SAYS, FOR THE LOVE OF MONEY IS A ROOT OF ALL KINDS OF EVILS. IT IS THROUGH THIS CRAVING THAT SOME HAVE WANDERED AWAY FROM THE FAITH AND PIERCED THEMSELVES WITH MANY PANGS. MONEY AND WEALTH IS SUCH A PETTY ARGUMENT WHEN YOU KNOW WHERE TRUE DEPENDENCE RESTS – WITH THE LORD GOD ALMIGHTY.

SOCIALISM IS NOT A FRIEND OF THE FAMILY UNIT AS WELL. FRIEDRICH ENGLES ONCE ENVISIONED, "THE SINGLE-FAMILY CEASES TO BE THE ECONOMIC UNIT OF SOCIETY. PRIVATE HOUSEKEEPING IS TRANSFORMED INTO A SOCIAL INDUSTRY. THE CARE AND EDUCATION OF THE CHILDREN BECOMES A PUBLIC AFFAIR." MANY TODAY BELIEVE THAT THE STATE CAN BEGIN THIS PROCESS EARLIER THAN 5, AND UNFORTUNATELY, MORE AND MORE TRY TO GIVE THEIR CHILDREN TO THE SCHOOL SYSTEM AT EARLIER AGES. SOCIALISM SEEKS TO REPLACE THE FATHER AS THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD (EPH 5; 6:4) AND THE MOTHER AS THE SUPREME NURTURER AND LOVING TEACHER (PROV 1:8).

SURFACE LEVEL PHILOSOPHIES ARE VERY POPULAR TO THE WORLD. THEY SHOULD NOT BE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN ROOTED IN THE WORD OF GOD (COL 2:6-10).

PASTOR ANDY