

# Thinking Biblically About Socialism (Part 3)

Selected Scripture

# I. What is Socialism?

# I. What is Socialism?

“Any economic or political system based on government ownership and [or] control of important businesses and methods of production.”

- [dictionary.cambridge.org](https://dictionary.cambridge.org)

“Socialism seeks as it’s premier goal the equality of wealth and equality of ownership within a society. To accomplish this, the government must be involved in the redistribution of wealth.”

- R.C. Sproul

“Virtually every significant effort aimed at improving people’s standard of living invented by socialistic or communistic theories of economics has failed miserably.”

- R.C. Sproul

“No matter the plan, it has not been and cannot be made to work.”

- Wayne Grudem

“Perhaps the best line I have heard on the subject is from our 30th president. Calvin Coolidge: ‘Don’t expect to build up the weak by pulling down the strong.’”

- Cal Thomas

## II. How is Socialism contrary to God's design?



## II. How is Socialism contrary to God's design?

A. God created human beings to be stewards of His creation. (Gen.1:26, 28)

1. God gives us the privilege and responsibility of having earthly ownership of private property.

1. God gives us the privilege and responsibility of having earthly ownership of private property.
2. God calls us to take care of His creation and ourselves by working.

3. God intends for our work to be fruitful or productive.

3. God intends for our work to be fruitful or productive.
4. God intends for us to enjoy the fruits of faithful labor as a reward.

B. Our God-given freedom to own property, work productively, and enjoy the fruit of our labor is the foundation of the economic system called free market or capitalism.

B. God gave human beings the privilege and responsibility of having earthly ownership of private property.

III. How can money and material prosperity  
be temptations to sin? (1 Timothy 6:6-10)



A. Wealth can become an obsession to the point that we never have enough.

A. Wealth can become an obsession to the point that we never have enough.

*But godliness with contentment is great gain (v.6)*

*Godliness* is “devotion to God which results in a life that is pleasing to Him.”

– Jerry Bridges

*Contentment* is “an attitude of satisfaction and peace within, regardless of the circumstances.”

- Chuck Swindoll

*for we brought nothing into the world,  
and we cannot take anything out of the  
world. (v.7)*

B. Pursuing wealth for the sake of becoming rich is the first step of a downward spiral to ruin.

B. Pursuing wealth for the sake of becoming rich is the first step of a downward spiral to ruin.

*But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. (v.9)*

1. Pursuing wealth will expose us to greater temptation.



1. Pursuing wealth will expose us to greater temptation.

*But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation (v.9)*

2. Pursuing wealth changes our desires.

## 2. Pursuing wealth changes our desires.

*But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. (v.9)*

3. Pursuing wealth causes ruin and destruction.

### 3. Pursuing wealth causes ruin and destruction.

*But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. (v.9)*

*“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. (Mt.6:24)*

*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. (v.10)*

Money and material prosperity can be a blessing or a curse.



What is the nature of your money and material prosperity right now?

Is it a blessing or is it a curse?