



STAND YOUR GROUND, Part IV
February 4 & 9, 2022
“Is Capitalism Christian?”

Command #8: *You shall not steal, Exodus 20:15*

Private property is wired into human nature (the Image of God)

Gen. 1:26-27

Was the early church a socialist society?

Acts 2:42-45

- Voluntary:
- Temporary:

➤ **so·cial·ism**

A political and economic theory which advocates that the means of production, distribution, and exchange should be owned or regulated by the community as a whole.

➤ **cap·i·tal·ism**

An economic and political system in which a country's trade and industry are controlled by private owners for profit, rather than by the state.

Was Israel a capitalist country?

- Yes: Private property
- No: community responsibility
- Sabbath/ Festivals/ Tithe/ First fruits/ Poor/ Sojourner/ Sacrifices

Is Capitalism Christian?

- NO: Dangers of capitalism:
 - Perpetual discontent: *Eccles. 1:14*
 - Envy: *Prov 14:30*

- Greed: *1 Tim. 6:9-10*
- Materialism:
- YES: Guard rails to capitalism:
 - Gratitude: *Col. 3:15*
 - Humility: *1 Tim. 6:17-19*
- Satisfaction:
 - Generosity: *2 Cor. 8:1-2*
 - Rewards: *1 Cor. 3:13*

Discussion Questions

1. What's right about the theory of socialism? Why has it failed?
2. How can sin pervert capitalism? Give an example?
3. What motives beyond greed cause me to pursue success in a capitalist economy?