

Twelve Bible Passages that Destroy Socialism and Uphold Free Enterprise

Part 1: Property Rights

Having ownership and control over tangible assets is an expression of what it means to be human. Moreover, property rights also are essential to economic and personal freedom — types of freedom that also are at the heart of what it means to be human.

Discussion Forum: Items for Reflection and Dialogue

1. Describe some of the potential costs of ignoring or neglecting the Bible's teachings on "non-spiritual" topics and themes.
2. Why are property rights, including the rights of ownership and management, essential for personal freedom?
3. Why are individual property rights essential for personal prosperity? Why are they also essential for national prosperity?
4. Describe the relationship between rights and responsibilities.
5. How are inherent rights protected when government commends those who do right and punishes those who do wrong, according to Romans 13:1-7 and 1 Peter 2:13-17? How is order preserved, according to 1 Timothy 2:1-4?
6. Social scientists call inherent rights — rights America's Founding Fathers called "unalienable" — *negative rights*. They're called negative because they are rights to act freely as one chooses to act, as long as the rights of others are not hindered by that person's actions. On the other hand, the existence of *positive rights* require intervention by others or, most commonly, by the government. Such intervention typically means government creates, engineers, and dispenses those "rights." With this background information in mind, describe how the perspective of rights held by most contemporary Americans differs from the perspective of rights held by the Founding Fathers.
7. When most of the citizenry in a country believe they are entitled to "rights" only the government can create and maintain, what are some possible ways their demand for these kinds of rights hinders individuals' inherent, negative, God-given rights?

Recommended resource: A short-article titled "How Liberty Works," available at <https://t.ly/9eEQE>.