

I. Introduction – The "Labor" Command

II. God's design for this sphere

- A. Culture's view of work – generally negative and considered a curse.

- B. Reflection of God's nature – God worked and saw that it was good – God stamped us with his divine image and has given us the privilege of being his creative stewards.

- C. Importance of this sphere, though we generally don't address it
 - 1. It funds everything – all material goods are produced in this sphere
 - 2. Yet it also produces pornography, illegal drugs, abortion, etc.

III. General Economic Model and Seven Economic Principles

- A. All things belong to God
 - 1. Our materialistic drive is a reflection of Satan's lie that more "stuff" will satisfy us.

- B. God appointed man to be a creative steward of his goods with ownership rights
 - 1. Definition of steward and economics: management authority of God's Goods.
 - 2. Proper, Biblical attitude of employees and employers.

- C. Theft and coveting of another's goods is wrong.

- D. Skills and abilities to work come from God.

- E. Work is profitable, good, and to be pursued; laziness is not.

F. Love God and not your goods.

G. Be compassionate and generous with your good to those in need.

IV. Responsibility to the poor

A. Scriptural mandate to show compassion to the poor.

B. The poor need work and the sphere of labor has the primary responsibility to provide those work opportunities.

V. Arts and Media - Is beauty relative?

A. God's standard – Psalm 101:3 – "I will set before my eyes no vile thing".

B. Overwhelming power and presence of media – "Whoever controls the media, controls the culture".

C. Soli Deo Gloria – For God's glory alone – We need to have this same perspective, that God would be glorified in all we do.