



## **CAPITALISM OR SOCIALISM: Which Does the Bible Prefer?**

*“Socialism is not an alternative to capitalism. It is an alternative to any system under which men can live as human beings.”*

—Ludwig Von Mises, Austrian Economist

Christians say the craziest things. I heard an evangelical pastor recently say, “Barak Obama was not the brown-skinned anti-war socialist who gave away free healthcare. It was Jesus.”

Really? Jesus, an anti-war socialist giving away free healthcare? A lot of young Christians think that today. A 2018 Gallup Poll discovered that only 45% of young American adults have a positive view of capitalism, down from 66% in 2012—that’s an astounding 20% drop in one decade. More than half now prefer socialism. [Socialism as Popular as Capitalism Among Young Adults](#)

### **Let’s get our Terms Straight**

Definitions matter. If we don’t agree on terms in hot button issue discussions, we will talk right past each other.

#### **Socialism:**

Economic or political systems with a collective or governmental ownership and administration of the production and distribution of goods. A society or group where there is no private property.

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/socialism>

### **Capitalism:**

An economic system characterized by private or corporate ownership of capital goods; by investments that are determined by private decision and by prices, production, the distribution of goods and competition in a free market.

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/capitalism>

### **Free Enterprise:**

The freedom of private business to organize and operate for profit in a competitive system without interference by government beyond the regulation necessary to protect public interest and keep the national economy in balance.

[https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/free\\_enterprise](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/free_enterprise)

### **Why do these Definitions Matter?**

We throw terms around very casually today. For many folks, socialism is a catchall word for big tax increases, or deficit government spending or regulations. They also wrongly apply the word *socialism* to social justice issues like BLM, CRT, LGBTQ, and other progressive concerns.

These loose definitions of socialism and capitalism are confusing to our next generation kids.

### **Why This Love Affair with Socialism?**

I highly recommend a May 15, 2019 online posting by Connor Boyjack on the *Fox Business News* site: [Why socialism is so popular among young people](#). Please allow me to distill, in my own words, some of his thoughts as he reflects on a statement posed by a

Harris Poll: "I prefer living in a socialist country." Sixty-one percent of 18-to-28-year-old Americans agree with that statement. Why?

### **It's the New Cultural Cool.**

### **It's born of Ignorance.**

## **How, Then, Shall We Help Them?**

1. **Was the Early Church Socialist?** [Acts 4:32-37; Acts 5:1-11]
2. **Was Jesus a Socialist?** [Mark 1:35-38; Matthew 26:11; Matthew 25; 2 Corinthians 9:7]
3. **Was Old Testament Israel Socialist?** [survey of verses]
4. **Is Socialism [or Any Other System] Perfect?** [Acts 4,5 & 6;]

Winston Churchill Quotes:

"The best argument against democracy is a five-minute discussion with an average voter."

"Many governments have been and will be tried in this world of sin and woe. No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all wise. Indeed, it has been said that democracy is the worst form of government, except for all others that have been tried from time to time."

5. **Can the Gospel be Advanced in these Discussions?**  
[Hebrews 9:27]