

SOCIALISM: FRIEND OR FOE?

PASTOR RANVILLE THOMAS

- 1. Socialism _____ the Biblical mandate of compassion for the poor and needy and reassigns it as the obligation of government.**

James 1:27

Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

Hebrews 13:16

But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Luke 3:11

He answered and said to them, "He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise."

Philippians 2:4

Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

- 2. Socialism changes the focus of our work bringing glory to God and instead encourages bringing glory to the _____.**

Genesis 1:28

Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Genesis 2:15

Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

Colossians 3:23

And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,...

3. Socialism encourages _____.

I Corinthians 12:12-27

For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also *is* Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many.

If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body *were* an eye, where *would be* the hearing? If the whole *were* hearing, where *would be* the smelling? But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all one member, where *would* the body *be*?

But now indeed *there are* many members, yet one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. And those *members* of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable *parts* have greater modesty, but our presentable *parts* have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that *part* which lacks it, that there should be no schism in the body, but *that* the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with *it*; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with *it*. Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

Romans 12:4-5

For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

4. Socialism focuses on creating a _____ on earth instead of being a part of God’s heavenly kingdom.

Matthew 6:33

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Luke 12:31

But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you.

Colossians 3:2

Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

Psalms 27:4

One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple.