



1. What evidence do we find in the teachings of Jesus that he was a socialist? What principles did Jesus teach, and the early church model, that are very much in line with socialist thinking?
2. Why do Christians of a conservative, capitalist bent, tend to shun, and even demonize Christian socialism?
3. Acts 2:44-45; 4:32, 34-35 describes the early believers, who sold their possessions, had all things in common, and provided for the needy. How might the church implement such practices today? Would it even be practical?
4. Bernie Sanders, a socialist, says the greatest moral, political, and economic issue of our day is wealth and income inequality, and is also the greatest cause of suffering. Some say this world view contradicts Christian teaching, and that suffering is caused by sin, and because of sin, there will always be income and wealth inequality. Salvation is found in the cross of Christ, not in the redistribution of wealth. Share your thoughts.
5. The Preamble to the U.S. Constitution says, "...provide for the general welfare...and promote the common good..." Our Christian social values teach that we are to provide for the homeless, the hungry, the poor, the sick, the marginalized, those suffering from injustice by their oppressors. Did the Longview City Council fail to uphold the U.S. Constitution (which they took vows to uphold), and go against Christian Social principles by not providing funding for Love Overwhelming? Give other examples as well.
6. What, off the top of your head, are some Christian social values we learn from Holy Scripture, especially from the parables and other teachings of Jesus, and the Hebrew Bible?
7. How do we interpret the reversals of power as found in Mary's Magnificat and Jesus' teachings: "He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty." (Luke 1:52-53). "But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry." (Luke 6:24-25).
8. Some Christian Socialists consider Capitalism to be idolatrous, rooted in greed, while some denominations even consider it a mortal sin. Is Capitalism gaining or losing influence in the U.S.? Does it have a future in our country? In the world? Is Capitalism the "ticket" to abundance and success, as many were taught growing up? Is there a connection between Capitalism (greed) and climate change/global warming? Can Capitalism and care for the planet exist together?
9. Has Capitalism run its course, hence no longer a viable model for the world economy?
10. Jesus frequently makes mention of the Kingdom of God/Heaven. Does this "rule and reign of God" here on earth, have a connection to Christian Socialism? What do you think?
11. In the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard, all get the same pay. What does this parable have to say about equity and equality from a Christian Social perspective? Or is it about something else altogether?