

## GoBusiness100 | Intro Module 2

Called by God to Steward His Creation, Part II  
(Excerpted from *The Freedom Series*)

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE



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### MASTER PRINCIPLE:

Servant leaders produce proprietors

### *IDOLS OF THE CITY TO PULL DOWN:*

- Profit should be the primary goal of all businesses and business leaders.
- Capitalism is ethically inferior to socialism because it exploits people and things rather than caring for them (“utilitarianism” vs. “compassion”).

### *THE TRUTH:*

- The primary goal of business should be the maturation of people in terms of creativity, stewardship, and proprietorial participation in their work.
- Neither “capitalism” nor “socialism” should be a Christian’s economic model. The believer’s economic model should be based on Scripture, not worldly economic categorizations.

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### I. Servant leadership and proprietorship:

- A. Man is created in God's image and likeness (Genesis 1:26-28) and is commissioned by God to steward His creation. Therefore, man's goal must be to imitate the goals and purposes of his Creator. Everyone is a "businessman"; that is, called to be fruitful (John 15:12), and properly steward personal possession as God does His.
  - 1. God's goal, as seen in Session Two, is to bring us into fellowship with Himself by sharing the management of His creation with us.
  - 2. Godly leadership, in business or elsewhere, has one primary serving goal: to draw others into their full potentiality in God (Luke 22:24-26).
- B. God's design for individuals, families, churches, businesses and nations must determine how wise leaders govern (Philippians 3:12; Acts 17:26) by helping them as closely as is possible into conformity with divine design.
  - 1. Nothing that is out of order (operating contrary to) can be fulfilled or prosper in the long run.
  - 2. The godly leader must diligently seek out God's design for people and situations and steward them accordingly by bringing them as closely as is possible into conformity with divine design.
  - 3. This leadership process involves identifying motivation, skills, goals, and hindrances to growth (sin) ("A plan in the heart of a man is like deep water, but a man of understanding draws it out" -Proverbs 20:5)
  - 4. God's method of preparing us for co-ruling with Him (Galatians 3:24-4:8) is to school us by designed pressure and problems into skillful, productive managers of what He has entrusted to us (Luke 16:10-12).
- C. God's priorities: profit or a proprietorial spirit?
  - 1. Capitalism's primary goal is usually deemed to be profit.
  - 2. A person or enterprise can be "profitable" and yet be immoral, utilitarian, and totally out of God's will. Example: "rich" drug dealers (Psalm 37:1; Psalm 73:3).
  - 3. God has shown us by His own leadership example that leaders are called to draw people into a proprietorial spirit in order to maximize their maturity.
    - a. Ownership produces involvement, self-interest, and "Beulah" (married to the land—Isaiah 62:4).
    - b. Consider the differences between a proprietor and worker: The "work-station" mentality vs. picking up papers that are on your floor.
    - c. The ability in people to produce increase is closely tied to developing self-worth (a leader's goal); self-worth releases creativity and ability to risk.
    - d. Good leaders produce proprietors, and proprietors are creative, fulfilled, and fruitful.

## II. Analyzing the world's economic ethics:

### A. Accusations against capitalism:

1. It is profit-oriented, not people-oriented (utilitarian); i.e., it uses people.
2. It alienates man from his labor by objectifying labor into segregated production functions that are menial and repetitive.

### B. Accusations against socialism:

1. It sacrifices the virtues of personal reward for creative labor, risk, and stewardship on the altar of economic security.
2. It encourages covetousness against those who succeed beyond the norm (“I should have what you have”).
3. It encourages envy (“Why do you have more than I do?”).
4. It makes the prosperous “guilty” for their success.
5. It promotes civil theft through taxation designed to make everyone equal.
6. It destroys family inheritance through “leveling” taxation policies.

### C. What biblical principles motivate the rebuilders?

1. Leadership that is servant-oriented.
2. Economic relationships that encourage virtue and discourage indolence should be properly rewarded. Businesses that maximize the proprietorial spirit, creativity, and maturation of the participants.

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## *Homework:*

- 1. The primary goal of a godly leader is to be as profitable as possible because that is being fruitful in your labor.**
  - a. True
  - b. False
- 2. The only way to really walk out God's principles of business is for everyone in a business to be a Christian.**
  - a. True
  - b. False
- 3. Sin is not simply a moral or ethical catastrophe; it has one major attribute, according to this lesson. What is that attribute?**

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- 4. In this lesson, what three biblical principles are the foundations of economic ethics?**