

## GoBusiness100 | Intro Module 3

Private Property: Cornerstone of Freedom  
(Excerpted from *The Freedom Series*)

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### **MASTER PRINCIPLE:**

Lasting wealth is built generationally through the wise stewardship of private property.

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

- *Private property is a very limited right that is subject to the civil government.*
- *Because life is short, people should maximize their pleasure and profit.*

### ***THE TRUTH:***

- *Private property is essential to both personal and societal maturity.*
- *Private property belongs to those who lawfully own it.*
- *Wise stewardship over property operates generationally rather than short-run.*

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### I. Private property, maturity, and generational transfer:

- A. Private property is essential to personal and societal maturity.
  - 1. God owns all land (Psalm 24:1) which is why property tax is blasphemous. God has given it to nations (Acts 17:26) and families (Leviticus 25, Leviticus 27:24).
  - 2. Man will be judged for his stewardship of God's possessions (all inclusive) beginning with the care of his body (1 Corinthians 3:17).
  - 3. Stewardship over that "property" entrusted to us forms an essential part of our training/evaluation/maturity program under God:
    - a. God is looking for "fruit" (increase in the long run) (John 15:16; Luke 19:11-21).
    - b. God entrusts us with caring for natural things before spiritual things (Luke 16:10-12).
    - c. God gives care over greater things based on our care of lesser things.
    - d. Jesus gives us a superb example of His concern for stewardship in John 17.
  - 4. Since personal stewardship presupposes the personal management of property entrusted to you, values undercutting private property will produce immaturity and debt.
    - a. That which is owned by everybody is owned by nobody.
    - b. Examples:
      - i. Collectivized agriculture (Pilgrims, Africa)
      - i. The Brooklyn housing program
  - 5. There is no biblical injunctive for civil government owning land (Eminent Domain). Taxing the land leads to civil tyranny of all land use (1 Samuel 8:14).
- B. Private property (wealth) and derived economic blessing is built on the family unit.
  - 1. God's blessing plan for the nations (Jesus) is given to them from Father's family base. Blessing comes from obedient families (Genesis 12:3; Genesis 18:18-19; Acts 3:25).
  - 2. Good family law, therefore, is good economic law since society is made up of families.
  - 3. In the long run, societal wealth can be predicted by a nation's laws and trends of:
    - a. Divorce and illegitimacy
    - b. Abortion
    - c. Pornography consumption
    - d. Debt-equity corporate structures
    - e. Personal savings rate
    - f. Civic debt
    - g. Nonreplenishable resource consumption

4. Lasting wealth is multi-generational and long-run rather than short-run consumption-oriented.
  - a. God is the God of “Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob” (three generational principle).
  - b. The “curse of poverty” is single generational wealth (selfishness vs. heritage—Malachi 4:4-6; parental savings—2 Corinthians 12:14)
  - c. Inheritance taxes and all anti-family practices produce poverty (Matthew 5:45—God’s laws are universal.)

<b>Examples:</b>	<b>Causes of Poverty:</b>
Family-based wealth in Japan	Sin
Amazon rainforests	Indolence
Divorce	Covenant breaking
Debt	Disobedience
Dividends vs. R&D, market share	Pagan worship

- d. People, companies, and nations must be generationally driven by investments not consumption- or debt-driven. J. M. Keynes (our economic system’s father) was not a family man.

## II. Major principles of wise stewardship based on generational building:

- A. Practicing and instilling the principle of stewardship over only what we currently have leads to increasing irresponsibility in the future. (Matthew 13:12—a twisted “Robin Hood Mentality”: Steal from tomorrow to pay for today.)
  1. Wealth gained quickly is not kept (Proverbs 21:20) because the skill base doesn’t undergird it to steward it.
  2. Value is a function of the sacrifice given over time.
- B. Christ’s last act before death was to arrange for the care of His family (Mary—John 19:26-27).
  1. Investing in relationships is the key to wealth since it promotes covenantal response (self-government) rather than short-run consumption.
  2. Godly families pass on the skills of stewardship as the primary guarantee of success (character skills) more than “things” or money.

