

A Biblical View of Economics

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Key Truth: Since God is the Creator (Genesis 1:1) and Owner (Psalm 24:1) of everything, we look to him in the way we manage the resources he has entrusted to us.

It may surprise you to realize that economics is not about money. Certainly, money plays a part. But economics is really about managing limited resources. A biblical view of economics asserts that God owns everything and entrusts *some* things to each of us. This includes the rule of private property (see Exodus 20:15), which God apportions to each of us, not to be exploited or squandered for our own selfish gain, but to be stewarded for God's glory.

DISCUSS

Read **Genesis 1:26-2:3** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon on "**A Biblical View of Economics.**"

DIG IN

Four Essential Elements of a Biblical View of Economics:

1. **Stewardship:** Stewardship and Economics mean the same thing ("Stewardship" = *oikonomia*: *oikos* = "house" + *nomos* = "law" or "administration", the same group of words from which we get our word "economy"). Thus, "economics" and "stewardship" mean "household management."

What are the things in our world that God calls us to steward/manage?

In what ways does Genesis 1:26-2:3 speak of Stewardship of God's resources?

2. **Scarcity:** Scarcity in Economics is the idea that there are not enough of the world's resources to satisfy every desire, especially if they were provided free of charge.

In what ways do we see scarcity evident in our world? What are some problems we face associated with that condition?

Read Deuteronomy 8:3: In what ways did God use scarcity in the lives of the Israelites? Was this a good thing? Why or why not?

In what ways is scarcity good for us?

3. Sabbath

Read Genesis 2:2-3: What is God's purpose for the Sabbath?

Why is Sabbath an important part of a biblical view of economics?

In what ways do we tend to abuse or neglect Sabbath today?

4. Salvation

Read Matthew 6:33: In what ways does salvation enable us to practice a biblical view of economics?

DO

In what ways will you personally put *a biblical view of economics* into practice this week?