

What does it mean to be **IN**
but not **OF** this world?

Material

Temporal felt needs

Body savers

Social justice

Incarnation



Spiritual

Eternal longings

Soul savers

Disciple making

Crucifixion

Competing visions of the meaning of worldliness.

Worldliness is greediness. The Gospel is a call for economic justice.

Compassion is at the heart of God's Spirit.



Worldliness is preoccupied with material needs - social justice issues.

God's kingdom is not of this world.

Political



Preach the Gospel!

The state has no right to forcefully redistribute personal wealth.

"The poor are lazy. The rich are hard working."



tension

Feed the poor!

The state is a corporate extension of the moral will of its citizens.

"The poor are victims. The rich are greedy."

The "WE" centered culture

Responsibilities
- MY obligation to YOU.

The poor feel empowered
"How can I change my situation?"

The rich feel empowered
"How can I give back to my community?"

The "ME" centered culture

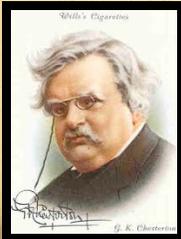
Rights
- YOUR obligation to ME.

The poor feel entitled
"You profited at my expense. You owe me."

The rich feel entitled
"It's my stuff, I earned it. Get your own stuff."

ENLIGHTENMENT / Romanticism

G. K. Chesterton



"The poor have sometimes objected to being governed badly;

the rich have always objected to being governed at all."

Mark 6

"30 And the apostles gathered together with Jesus; and they reported to Him all that they had done and taught. 31 And He said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a lonely place and rest a while." (For there were many people coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat.) 32 And they went away in the boat to a lonely place by themselves. 33 And the people saw them going, and many recognized them, and they ran there together on foot from all the cities, and got there ahead of them. 34 And when He went ashore, He saw a great multitude, and **He felt compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd**; and He began to teach them many things. 35 And when it was already quite late, His disciples came up to Him and began saying, "The place is desolate and it is already quite late; 36 send them away so that they may go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat."

“37 But He answered and said to them, **“You give them something to eat!”** And they said to Him, “Shall we go and spend two hundred denarii on bread and give them something to eat?” 38 And He said to them, “How many loaves do you have? Go look!” And when they found out, they said, “Five and two fish.” 39 And He commanded them all to recline by groups on the green grass. 40 And they reclined in companies of hundreds and of fifties. 41 And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up toward heaven, He blessed the food and broke the loaves and He kept giving them to the disciples to set before them; and He divided up the two fish among them all. 42 And they all ate and were satisfied. 43 And they picked up twelve full baskets of the broken pieces, and also of the fish. 44 And there were five thousand men who ate the loaves.”

Fact #1 Care for the poor is a major ethical theme in Scripture.

Isaiah 10

“¹ Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees, ² to **deprive** the poor of their rights and **withhold justice** from the oppressed of my people, making widows their **prey** and **robbing** the fatherless.”

Leviticus 10:15

“You shall do no injustice in judgment; you shall not be **partial to the poor** or **defer to the great**, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor.”

Ephesians 4:28

“Let him who steals steal no longer; but rather let him labor, performing with his own hands what is good, in order that he may have something to **share with him who has need.**”

Luke 12:48

“From everyone **who has been given much, much will be required**; and to whom they entrusted much of him they will ask all the more.”

Galatians 6:10

“while we have opportunity, let us **do good to all people**, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.”

John Wesley



“Make as much as you can. Save as much as you can. Give as much as you can.”

Fact #2 The challenge of poverty is great
Poverty's nature is often misunderstood.



JEWISH ETHICAL PRIORITIES

Micah 6:8

“He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to **do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?**”



“*Jewish ethics teaches that poverty is an unjust condition and a violation of human dignity. Therefore, our Jewish tradition unequivocally asserts: any society that calls itself just must take care of its most vulnerable. We must help the poor to recapture their dignity . . .*”

Fact #2 The challenge of poverty is great
Poverty's culture is hard to change.

Social isolation
- not connected to a supportive family, community or culture.



Spiritual hopelessness
- not empowered from within to experience personal dignity and hope.

Material deprivation
- not able to afford basics (food, shelter, etc.)

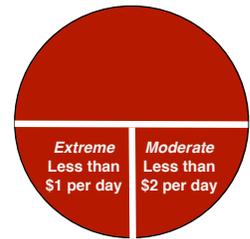
Political marginalization
- not empowered socially to effect change in one's life situation.

**Fact #2 The challenge of poverty is great
Poverty's complexities are hard to balance.**

Spiritual needs	Physical needs
church family	biological family
individual freedom	community equality
equality of opportunity	equality of outcome
short term relief	long term recovery
domestic needs	international needs
The rich are blessed	God cares for the poor

Fact #3 Poverty is relative to the environment

The 500 wealthiest people in the world match the wealth of 50% (3 billion) of the world's people.



% earning \$1 per day

Sub-Saharan Africa	48%
South Asia	40%
East Asia & Pacific	15%
Latin America	12%
USA	1%

World population and income

Source: World Bank

Fact #3 Poverty is relative to the environment

Bottom 20% Second 20% Middle 20% Second high 20% Top 20%



In a national survey people were asked to estimate the distribution of wealth in the USA and also to express their ideal distribution.

Source: Norton & Ariely's article in *Perspectives on Psychological Science* 2010

Fact #3 Poverty is relative to the environment

Bottom 20% Second 20% Middle 20% Second high 20% Top 20%

How we think it is



How we think it should be?

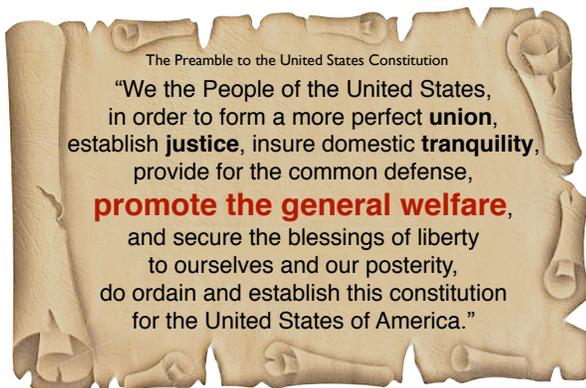


How it really is



while the bottom 40% of the people have less than 1% of the wealth

Fact #4 The state plays a vital but challenging role in economic justice.



A socialist society

is willing to sacrifice individual liberty and material productivity for material and social equality.

A capitalist society

is willing to sacrifice material and social equality for individual liberty and material productivity.

A Christian society

views liberty and productivity as a responsibility more than a right - and compassion with cooperation as important as competition.

Christians can "do good" in both capitalist and socialist societies.

Christian capitalists

Competition that is fair

It is motivated by the pursuit of efficiency, and effectiveness as stewards more than personal comfort and power as consumers.

Cooperation that is proactive

It is sensitive to the well-being of the community as well as the family and the individual.

Compassion that is sacrificial

It is free to be generous and sensitive in addressing the true needs of others, especially those without power or dignity.

Who pays Federal Income Tax and how much?

% of American population	% Income threshold	% of Federal tax paid	% of income received
Top 1%	\$295,495	34.27%	32.7%
Top 5%	\$130,000	54.36%	57.7%
Top 10%	\$94,891	65.84%	69.8%
Top 25%	\$57,343	83.88%	85.8%
Top 50%	\$29,019	96.54%	97.2%
Bottom 50%	below \$29,019	3.46%	2.8%

Source – 2004 IRS Data Book www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0923085 Tax Foundation. <http://taxfoundation.org>

Example of Jesus being IN but not OF the world.

As Christian citizens we call our democratic republic to promote the general welfare of all people because they bear God's image.

Domestic Strategies

- **Respect and dignity.** Focus attention on restoring and preserving personal dignity not just giving money.
- **Bipartisan.** Both the political right and left need to do more listening, less competing, and refocus on public service.
- **The family.** Promote and support committed marriages and healthy families.
- **The economy.** Promote and support a growing economy.
- **The middle class.** Promote and support a healthy and growing economic middle class.

International strategies

- **Civil rights.** Promoting the rights of women and children in third world countries would make a big difference.
- **Sanitation.** Clean water is perhaps the single biggest and solvable problem in the third world.
- **Capitalism.** Developing competitive (free) markets has proven to be the single best mechanism for creating wealth.
- **Representative and responsible government.** Corrupt government is a mammoth problem in the third world.
- **Emergency aid.** Prompt, generous, well directed aid from wealthy countries is needed to meet temporal crises.