



## **Kern Pastoral Enhancement Program**

### **FA13 Economic Wisdom Enhancement | VALUE CREATION**

*October 31, 2014*

11:30-12:00 Lunch

#### ***Topic #1 – Value Creation, Creative Capacity, and Entrepreneurship***

12:00-12:15 Presentation – Matt Zainea, Senior Pastor, Blythefield Hills Baptist Church

12:15-12:30 Table Discussion

12:30-12:45 Large group debrief

12:45-1:00 Break

#### ***Topic #2 – The Common Good***

1:00-1:15 Presentation – Dr. Mike Wittmer

1:15-1:30 Table Discussion

1:30-1:45 Large group debrief

1:45-2:00 Panel discussion and Q/A  
*Mike Wittmer*  
*Matt Zainea*  
*Scott Morter*  
*Darrell Yoder*

***Value Creation, Creative Capacity, and Entrepreneurship***

Matt Zainea

Schneider, *The Good of Affluence*

A. What is Value Creation?

1. Creation narrative and value creation.

- a. Image and culture.
- b. The garden and the future.
- c. Specialization and labor.

2. Value creation and community.

- a. Specialization and comparative advantage.
- b. Visions of shalom

B. What is Creative Capacity?

- 1. Creative capacity gone wrong – Babel
- 2. Creative capacity gone right – Matthew 25

C. Why care about Entrepreneurship?

- 1. Entrepreneurs and value.
- 2. Entrepreneurs and work.
- 3. Entrepreneurs and community.

## **Discussion Questions**

*In the next 15 minutes, discuss the following:*

1. In your own words: What is “value creation” and “creative capacity”?
2. Schneider tries to combat assertions by some like Stanley Hauerwas that the ends of capitalism do not justify the immoral, consumptive means to achieve those ends. Does Schneider succeed or is Hauerwas more within a proper understanding of the Gospel?
3. How should (or should not) a pastor incorporate these ideas into their ministry?

## **For Continued Thought...**

4. Should a pastor try to minister to the unique role of business generally and to entrepreneurs specifically? If so, how might that be done?
5. Max Weber argues that the Protestant church in western culture produced an “iron cage”. By this he meant that as the protestant church advocated for a capitalistic society that mechanism in turn trapped the church in a cage of acquisition and worldliness. Was Weber right?
6. Throughout the ages many Christian thinkers have spoke out against non-essential material things. What if any problems do you see with this line of thinking?

***The Common Good***  
Mike Wittmer  
Schneider, *The Good of Affluence*

A. What is the common good?

1. Security—peace of shalom

a. Justice

- 1) Retributive—each receives no less than she deserves. We hold each person responsible for his actions.
- 2) Distributive—resources are allocated in a fair and equitable manner

b. Wellbeing

- 1) Material Prosperity—enough financial resources to survive and even thrive
- 2) Physical Health—fitness
- 3) Emotional/Psychical Health—satisfied with our purpose and personal relationships.

2. Significance—prosperity of shalom

a. Religion—meaning of life

b. Freedom—personal—to act on what you perceive is the meaning of life

c. Opportunity—social—to act on what you perceive is the meaning of life

B. Why should pastors care?

1. We want the entire person, community, and earth to flourish as God intended.

2. Spiritual issues often are inter-related with physical and social issues. We must treat the whole person.

C. What should pastors watch out for?

1. Encouraging an easy, soft life that dulls one's spiritual senses and felt need for Jesus.

2. Misplaced priorities: focusing so much on the physical needs that we forget the more important need to know and love God.

3. Over-realized eschatology: emphasize the already of the kingdom that we minimize the not yet. We can become so excited by our present success that we forget that only Jesus can bring in his kingdom.
4. We must remember that our work is never done. Regardless how successful we are in our church and neighborhood, there will always be sin to root out and more flourishing to promote.

### **Discussion Questions**

*In the next 15 minutes, discuss the following:*

1. In your own words: What is “the common good” and why should a pastor care about it?
2. Is it true that Bill Gates has done more to help the poor than Mother Teresa? (Schneider, p. 30). How have each helped the poor in different ways?
3. Schneider attempts to help wealthy westerners wrestle through their obligations to the poor. He argues for “moral proximity,” saying that we have strong obligations to help those who are near us, not necessarily any poor person that we could technically reach with our resources (11, 35, 87-89). This rule of moral proximity makes “the demands of morality in economic life reasonable, bearable, and humane” (89). If we thought that we were obligated to give every spare dime to a Compassion International child, then we would be forced to eke out a bare, guilt-ridden life. We would never feel free to enjoy anything (99, 176-79).

Schneider concludes that we bear strong obligations to our family, church, and neighbors, and significantly smaller obligations to the poor in developing countries (whom we serve through governmental aid). We are most obligated to care for those closest to us, in our “most nearly ultimate relationships,” and according to our vocations (180). He writes: “The moral obligations of affluent Christians are strongest where the moral proximity of people in need is greatest” (178).

Is this concept of moral proximity helpful? Does it let us off the hook too easily? Should we nuance it in some way?



## **Kern Pastoral Enhancement Program**

### **FA11-12 Economic Wisdom Enhancement Productivity and Competition**

*November 7, 2014*

11:30-12:00      Lunch

#### ***Topic #1 – Macro-Economic Systems: Capitalism vs. Socialism***

12:00-12:15      Presentation – Matt Zainea, Senior Pastor, Blythefield Hills Baptist Church

12:15-12:30      Table Discussion

12:30-12:45      Large group debrief

12:45-1:00      Break

#### ***Topic #2 – Consumption and Consumerism***

1:00-1:15      Presentation – Dr. Mike Wittmer

1:15-1:30      Table Discussion

1:30-1:45      Large group debrief

1:45-2:00      Panel discussion and Q/A  
*Mike Wittmer*  
*Matt Zainea*  
*Scott Morter*  
*Darrell Yoder*

## ***Capitalism vs. Socialism Presentation – Matt Zainea***

Wehner and Brooks, *Wealth and Justice: The Morality of Democratic Capitalism*  
DeSoto, *The Mystery of Capital*

### A. What is Socialism?

1. The means of production, distribution, and exchange are owned by the community as a whole. Central planning dictates most facets of economic life.

- a. Similar forms all deal with some form of collectivism.
- b. Hard examples – Russian and China.
- c. Soft examples – Japan, Europe, and US progressivism.

2. Anthropology of Socialism.

- a. Rousseau.
- b. Hobbes.

### B. What is Capitalism?

1. The means of production, distribution and exchange are privately owned. Localized decision making and pricing dictate most facets of economic life.

2. Anthropology of Capitalism.

3. Main engines of capitalism.

- a. Cooperation
- b. Emulation
- c. Competition

### C. Capitalism or Socialism in the New Heaven/New Earth?

1. Biblical anthropology and human flourishing.

## Discussion Questions

1. Should a pastor to integrate economic thinking his teaching? If so, why?
2. Historically, socialism suppresses religious liberty. Why do you think this happens?
3. Can capitalism be reconciled with Acts 2 where the church held all things in common?



*Consumption & Consumerism Presentation - Wittmer*  
Wehner and Brooks, *Wealth and Justice*

A. Creation: the Good of Consumption

1. For Ourselves

- a. Physical survival. We would die if we are unable to consume food. E.g., ALS patients—one of the last stages is inserting a feeding tube to give them nourishment.
- b. Physical, emotional, and spiritual enjoyment. We must take something in to enjoy it, whether that be a banquet, basketball game, or a movie.
- c. Think of examples of various things you consumed this week. Air, food, education, books, Bible, YouTube video, printer, car, gasoline, (time), clothes, tissues, medicine.
- d. Fasting: we may temporarily stop consuming, but this is never an end in itself. It reminds us that something is more satisfying than the pleasures of this life, which then frees us to enjoy them more, because we enjoy them rightly.

2. For Others

- a. Gives people jobs. If everyone stopped consuming, everyone would be flat broke. Every job creates a product or service that someone thinks is worthwhile enough that they will pay to consume it. If no one consumes your product or service, you will stop producing it or declare it a hobby.
- b. The more we consume the more people produce and the more active becomes our economy. Tension of Christianity and capitalism—the Bible calls for contentment, which would seem to destroy our economy. Does Scripture contain the seeds of our demise? (this will be a discussion question).

B. Fall: the Evil of Consumerism

1. Objectively: what about the problem of overconsumption? Consuming is necessary, but if we consume too much, there won't be anything left to consume. If we consume in the wrong way, we may damage other opportunities to consume (e.g., fracking may hurt the environment which will hurt our quality of life; greenhouses gases).
2. Subjectively: consumerism. We don't merely consume products, but we consume them in an idolatrous way. We put our hope in them. We find our identity in them. We must have the latest iPhone, iWatch, or iAnything.

3. Consumerism actually hurts others. We overheat the economy, inflation accelerates, bubbles form, borrowing increases to unsustainable levels as people try to keep up with each other, and eventually the economy crashes (see 2008).

***Consumption & Consumerism***  
Wehner and Brooks, *Wealth and Justice*

1. What is the difference between consumption and consumerism? How can you tell when the good of consumption turns into the evil of consumerism?
  
2. Read Hebrews 13:5 and Philippians 4:11-13. How can you reconcile capitalism with contentment? Does Scripture contain the seeds of capitalism's demise?
  
3. In what way might contentment be necessary to sustain a capitalistic economy? See *Wealth and Justice*, p. 9.
  
4. Does capitalism encourage us to become better or worse people? See *Wealth and Justice*, p. 34-38.
  
5. How has consumerism influenced the church? What issues must pastors watch out for?

## ***Consumption & Consumerism***

Dr. Mike Wittmer

Wehner and Brooks, *Wealth and Justice*

### **Discussion Questions**

*In the next 15 minutes, discuss the following:*

1. What is the difference between consumption and consumerism? How can you tell when the good of consumption turns into the evil of consumerism?

2. Read Hebrews 13:5 and Philippians 4:11-13:

“Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’”  
(Hebrews 13:5 NIV)

“<sup>11</sup> I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. <sup>12</sup> I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. <sup>13</sup> I can do all this through him who gives me strength.” (Philippians 4:11-13 NIV)

How can you reconcile capitalism with contentment? Does Scripture contain the seeds of capitalism’s demise?

3. In what way might contentment be necessary to sustain a capitalistic economy? See *Wealth and Justice*, p. 9.
4. Does capitalism encourage us to become better or worse people? See *Wealth and Justice*, p. 34-38.
5. How has consumerism influenced the church? What issues must pastors watch out for?



## **Kern Pastoral Enhancement Program**

### **FA14 Economic Wisdom Enhancement | STEWARDSHIP & FLOURISHING**

*November 14, 2014*

11:30-12:00      Lunch

#### ***Topic #1 – Introduction to Faith, Work, and Economics***

12:00-12:15      Presentation – Dr. Michael Wittmer

12:15-12:30      Table Discussion

12:30-12:45      Large group debrief

12:45-1:00        Break

#### ***Topic #2 – Stewardship and the Value of Money***

1:00-1:15        Presentation – Matt Zainea, Senior Pastor, Blythefield Hills Baptist Church

1:15-1:30        Table Discussion

1:30-1:45        Large group debrief

1:45-2:00        Panel discussion and Q/A  
*Mike Wittmer*  
*Matt Zainea*  
*Scott Morter*  
*Darrell Yoder*

***Introduction to Faith, Work, and Economics***  
Keller and Alsdorf, *Every Good Endeavor*

1. Of all the things that pastors must care about, why should they concern themselves with integrating faith into work and economics?
  
2. How is integrating faith into work and economics an extension of the gospel? How might it pose a potential danger to the gospel?

Questions from *Every Good Endeavor*

3. Why can we take large amounts of work, but too much leisure and play quickly destroys us? (p. 38).
  
4. It's tempting to view our work as a means to make a name for ourselves (p. 115). How might this be true even for those in ministry?
  
5. How have market values invaded every area of life, including church and family life? (p. 147-49)
  
6. Use Keller's worldview questions to evaluate your current or previous job (p. 181). What story is your job telling? How might you redirect this job for the glory of God?

***Work, Money, and Worship***  
Matt Zainea

A. New Testament thoughts on work and money?

1. Matthew 25.
  - a. Money given according to ability.
  - b. Well done good and faithful servant.
  - c. Enter into the joy of your Master.
2. Matthew 6: 19-21

B. How does money connect to work and ultimately worship?

1. Genesis 4:2-5
2. Romans 12:1-2

C. Topics related to money and work.

1. Giving
2. Gambling
3. Investing
4. Taxes
5. Mothering

## Discussion Questions

1. If we understand money as stored work how can that aid pastors in speaking into the daily lives of their congregation?
2. How does a biblical understanding of money, work and worship shape how a pastor teaches about giving? What are some of the pitfalls pastors often fall into on this subject?
3. How can a pastor connect with his congregation well regarding their work?