The Church and Economics

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“Homo Economicus Versus Homo Imago Dei,”
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The Nature of the Human Being
The Nature of the Human Being

Mind

Affections

Will

Body
The Nature of the Human Being

Mind
Affections
Will
Body
The Nature of the Human Being
Called to be Image Bearers

1. Human beings are always worshipping something.
Called to be Image Bearers

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2. Human beings are transformed into the image of whatever god we are worshipping.
Called to be Image Bearers

1. Human beings are always worshipping something.

2. Human beings are transformed into the image of whatever god we are worshipping.

3. Human beings create culture in our own image.
Process of Individual and Cultural Formation
Mainstream (Neo-classical) Economics

> Dominates Western Economics
Mainstream (Neo-classical) Economics

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> Positive-Normative Distinction
The “Facts” of Mainstream (Neo-classical) Economics

1. **Homo Economicus:** Human beings are autonomous, rational, self-interested, impervious, material beings:
The “Facts” of Mainstream (Neo-classical) Economics

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\[
\text{max Utility} = F (\text{Consumption, Leisure})
\]

subject to budget constraint
The “Facts” of Mainstream (Neo-classical) Economics

2. Efficiency is better:

Economic Policy A is more efficient than Economic Policy B if Policy A allows for more mutually beneficial transactions to take place.
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In other words, homo economicus is god
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2. **Evidence that** Americans have become more individualistic and materialistic throughout the post-war era.

3. **Overwhelming evidence that** individualism and materialism lead to lower levels of happiness and of physical and mental health.

4. **Evidence that** globalization is spreading deformation.
The Church is Called to Embody a Different Economy

- God’s world under the reign of Jesus
- The broader culture, including economic culture
- The community of faith
PRACTICING THE KING'S ECONOMY
HONORING JESUS IN HOW WE WORK, EARN, SPEND, SAVE, AND GIVE

MICHAEL RHODES AND ROBBY HOLT
with BRIAN FIKKERT