

Jesus Was Not a Socialist

1. It is fashionable these days among liberal "Christians" to say that Jesus was a socialist because he taught giving alms and helping the poor.
2. There is a major distinction between helping the poor with one's own money, and robbing someone else at gunpoint to use their money to help the poor.
 - A. Jesus taught the former when He said: "But rather give alms of such things as ye have..." (**Luk 11:41**), and "Sell that ye have, and give alms..." (**Luk 12:33**).
 - B. Jesus condemned the latter when He said: "...Thou shalt not steal..." (**Mat 19:18**).
3. Jesus taught that there will always be poor people with us and that world poverty will never be eliminated:
 - A. "For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good..." (**Mat 14:7**).
4. Jesus taught that a business owner has the right to do whatever he wants with his property and pay employees whatever wage they have mutually agreed to, not matter how fair that wage may seem to some (**Mat 20:1-16**).
 - A. "Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?" (**Mat 20:15**)
5. The Bible teaches that a man has a right to the fruit of his labor.
 - A. "Whoso keepeth the fig tree shall eat the fruit thereof: so he that waiteth on his master shall be honoured." (**Pro 27:18**).
6. Jesus taught the wisdom of trading and investing and condemned laziness (**Mat 25:14-30**).
7. Jesus affirmed the principle of self defense, that a man has the right to defend his own property:
 - A. "When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace:" (**Luk 11:21**).
8. Contrary to the ideas of communistic "Christians", the early church was not communistic.
 - A. When the disciples sold their possessions and gave them to the apostles to distribute to them who had need, they did it voluntarily and they had control over their money until they donated it to the church.
 - B. "Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power?..." (**Act 5:4**)
9. The Bible teaches that those who can work must work, and if they don't they shouldn't eat.
 - A. **2Th 3:7** - For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;
 - B. **2Th 3:8** - Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:
 - C. **2Th 3:9** - Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us.
 - D. **2Th 3:10** - For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.
 - E. **2Th 3:11** - For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.
 - F. **2Th 3:12** - Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.
10. Those who don't provide for themselves and their families when able to do so are worse than infidels.
 - A. "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." (**1Ti 5:8**)