

THE GODLESS STATE

Communism – An All-Controlling State

Marxism *rejects* God and *replaces* Him with the State.

Review

We are learning to take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, which means that we filter every idea, philosophy, or cultural movement through the Scriptures. We either take those ideas captive, as Paul said, or they will take us captive.

So far, we’ve learned that our view of God affects our view of everything else. True wisdom begins with a knowledge and fear of God, but foolishness begins when God is eliminated from the equation. We likened it to opening Pandora’s Box. Rejecting the truth of God leads to worldview disasters.

We’ve also introduced the major worldviews, looking more closely at secular humanism, postmodernism, and biblical Christianity. In the last session, we examined the modern lie of the separation of church and state, as well as a biblical view of government. God instituted four spheres of government – individual, home, church, and civil government (State) – for our good and His purposes.

But what if one of these spheres gets outside of its boundaries and subjugates the others? That is the definition of tyranny, getting outside of established boundaries. Webster defined tyranny as “an arbitrary or despotic (unlimited) exercise of power with a rigor not authorized by law or justice or not requisite for the purposes of government” (*1828 Dictionary*).

While the Church has been guilty of tyranny at times, historically it has been the State that most often extends its reach beyond its boundaries. Why? What’s the point? The end game is control, control of everyone and everything in society, and eventually control of everyone on the planet (globalism). The goal of total control has many names – totalitarianism, absolutism, or Communism, to name a few. But each sphere of government must stay within its limits, or a free society will be subjected to oppression and tyranny.

Biblical View of the State

What does the Bible say about the purposes and boundaries of the State? A good place to start is *Romans 13:1-7*.

¹ “Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. ² Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.

³ For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same; ⁴ for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.

⁵ Therefore, it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience’ sake. ⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for *rulers* are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. ⁷ Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax *is due*; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.”

What are the biblical principles pertaining to the State?

First, all authority begins with God (*v.1*). He is the Creator and, therefore, Sovereign or Governor of the universe. He is the origin or source of authority. Second, God delegates authority to mankind (*v.1*). He instituted four spheres of government, the State or civil government being one of them. Thus, the State does have divine authority to carry out its responsibilities.

Third, leaders with civic authority are “ministers of God” (*v.4*) and “servants of God” (*v.6*), meaning they are ambassadors of God with authority from God, and they are accountable to God for how they use His authority. Therefore, the State must operate within God’s boundaries. The State is bound by God’s laws (Scripture), and when it operates outside of God’s boundaries, it will become tyrannical.

Fourth, the civil government exists for our good not for harm (v.3-6). God's intent for civil government was to bring order and stability to society by making good laws and punishing those who break them, even if death is required (v.3, 4). But what is good, and what is evil? Remember, as the Creator, Sovereign, and the only moral Being in the universe, God gets to decide what is good and what is evil, not man or the State.

Fifth, because civil government is an institution of God for our good, then is imperative that we submit to it with good behavior (v.1, 5) and support it financially (v.6, 7). Taxes are necessary for government to do what God has tasked it to do. Even Jesus paid His taxes (Matt. 17:24-27; 22:15-22). The idea and purpose of taxes are not to be questioned, but what can be questioned is how taxes are collected and how much taxes are collected.

What do these principles have to do with Communism? It is important to know the biblical principles of the State because Communism disregards them all. In the Communist worldview, God's authority is rejected, biblical principles are ignored, and in God's place is the State. The State does not exist for us, rather we exist for the State. We are wards of the State, and the State demands control over every aspect of life.

Marxist/Communist Worldview

The Marxist worldview is named after Karl Marx (1818-1883). Marx was a German Jew who denied his faith and his family and lived an angry, rebellious lifestyle. When he studied under George Hegel at the University of Berlin, he developed a desire to eradicate Christianity, and he soon began publishing his *Journal of Atheism*. Though married with children, Marx was a neglectful husband and father, who squandered all their money. He never held a job or office. He and his family lived in poverty and were sustained by the financial aid of others.

Marx convinced his friend, Friedrich Engels that revolutionary Communism was the answer to man's problems. Together, they became acquainted with an organization called the Communist League. In 1847, the British chapter of the League commissioned Marx and Engels to prepare a document setting forth its philosophy and goals. That document became known

as *Communist Manifesto* (1848). Marx's stated goals were to dethrone God and destroy capitalism.

Thus, Marx's manifesto spelled out six objectives – the overthrow of capitalism, the abolition of private property, the establishment of communal property, the elimination of the family, the abolition of classes, and the overthrow of all civil governments. Marx also included ten practical steps or “planks” for instituting Communism in any given country.

Here are a few excerpts from Marx's book.

The history of society is a history of *class struggles*. Freeman and slave, patrician and plebeian, lord and serf, oppressor and oppressed, have stood in opposition to one another. Society as a whole is more and more splitting into *two great hostile camps*, into two great classes directly facing each other – the Bourgeoisie and the Proletariat. By Bourgeoisie is meant the class of modern capitalists (business owners), owners of the means of production and employee wage-labor. By Proletariat is meant the class of modern wage-laborers (employees) who, having no means of production of their own, are reduced to selling their labor in order to live.

The Bourgeoisie has set up that single, unconscionable freedom – *free trade* (competition) – veiled by religious and political illusions. It has substituted naked, shameless, direct, brutal exploitation. These laborers, who must sell themselves, are a commodity, like every other article of commerce, and they are consequently exposed to all the [changes] of competition, to all the fluctuations of the market.

Every class struggle is a political struggle. The aim of the Communist is the overthrow of Bourgeois supremacy and the conquest of political power by the Proletariat (workers). Their supremacy may be achieved by the abolition of Bourgeois property. In this sense, the theory of the Communist may be summed up in the single phrase – *the abolition of private property*. Likewise, [we promote] the abolition of the family. The Bourgeois family is based on capital (property). The family will vanish with its vanishing capital.

The Proletariat will use its political supremacy to wrest (seize) all capital (property) from the Bourgeoisie and to centralize all means of production *in the hands of the State*. Of course, in the beginning, this cannot be affected except by means of despotic (tyrannical) inroads on the rights of property. Communism abolishes eternal truths. It abolishes all religion and all morality. Communism acts in contradiction to all past historical experience.

These measures will be different in different countries. Nevertheless, the following [measures] will be generally applicable.

1. Abolish private property and the application of all rents to public purposes. [Eminent domain in the U.S.]
2. Institute a heavy, progressive income tax. [U.S. 1913, with the passing of the 16th Amendment]
3. Abolish all rights of inheritance. [Estate taxes]
4. Confiscate the property of all immigrants and rebels. [1997 Crime/Terrorist bill, called “forfeiture” in U.S.]
5. Centralize all credit to the hands of the State, by means of a national bank, with State capital and an exclusive monopoly. [Federal Reserve Act, 1913]
6. Centralize all communication and transportation in the hands of the State. [FCC, Fed. Interstates (ICC), Fed. Aviation Adm. (FAA), Post Office, AMTRAK, CONRAIL]
7. All factories and implements of production must be owned by the State. [Farms/businesses are controlled by Department of Agriculture/Commerce and others]
8. Create an equal liability of all to labor by instituting industrial armies [Social Security Act, Dept. of Labor, two-income families, labor unions, federal work programs]
9. Combine agriculture with manufacturing industries, gradually abolishing the distinction between town and country by a more equitable

distribution of population. [1949 Planning Reorganization Act, zoning regulations]

10. Provide free education for all children in public schools and combine education with industrial production. [Dept. of Education, NEA, outcome-based education]

These “planks” are steps towards Marx’s dream society, what he called a *utopia*. However, it is a society without God in the picture and an all-powerful State acting as God. Marxism, therefore, is tyrannical.

Marx never got to see his ideas implemented in Germany. In fact, he was exiled for his ideas and lived the rest of his life in England. Not until the Russian Revolution in 1917 did a country attempt to implement Communism. With little surprise, the experiment was a disaster. Since then, several other countries have instituted Communism with the same results. While Americans tend to believe that Communism is dead, it is alive and growing, even infiltrating the U.S.

Missing the Marx

Marx promoted the lie of *victimization*, that people are oppressed, that the only path to liberty is to overthrow the oppressor. In Marx’s case, the victims or the oppressed were employees, and the oppressor was the employer. But this lie works with other “victims” in society – rich and poor, black and white, male and female, straight and gay, privileged and underprivileged. The list goes on. Instead of seeing the glass half full, Marx wanted people to see it half empty. The way to be “happy” in his worldview was to take what someone else had so that everyone could be the same. Sameness was his definition of equality.

While Marx’s ideas may look good on paper, when viewed in light of God’s standards, they fall short. Let’s take captive Marx’s ideas with biblical truth.

The State Is God

Marx’s manifesto gives all control to the State, as if the State were god and man exists for the State. But we know that man exists for God’s glory, not the State’s. He created people as equals, with purpose and value. People have rights, and God instituted government to protect those rights. Thus, man does not exist for the State, but the State exists for man (*Gen. 9:6; Ex. 20:13; Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Kings 21*).

Abolition of Private Property

Marx observed history and deduced that property is the source of all man's troubles. Therefore, in his mind, the elimination of property was the solution. However, sin is the source of man's troubles, not property. God gave man the ability to work to meet his needs. The reward for his labor is property. Therefore, property is an extension of a person and should be protected. God promotes the principle of private property (*Gen. 1:28; 2:15; Eccl. 5:18, 19; Ex. 20:15, 17; 2 Sam. 12:1-9*).

Advocates for Marxism like to point out that the Bible says that early believers had "all things in common" (*Acts 2:44*) and "not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but that all things were common property to them" (*Acts 4:34*). They also point to Ananias, who died because he kept some of the profit and did not give it all to those in need.

Did the early church practice communism? Not at all. Marx's idea of communal property is mandated by the State to force equality (sameness). The early Church practiced *voluntary* charity, giving freely of their wealth to help those in need. Christian charity happens because of *love*, not force.

Also, notice that the Bible promotes the idea of private property. The believers "began selling *their property* and possessions..." (*Acts 2:45*) and "all who were *owners* of land or houses would sell them..." (*4:34*). Peter even said to Ananias, "When [the land] remained unsold, did it not remain *your own*? And after it was sold, was it not *under your control*?" (*Acts 5:4*). These believers were people with private property, freely selling it to make a profit, then voluntarily giving that profit to provide for the needs of others.

Finally, Ananias did not die because he refused to give his money to the poor. He died because he lied to God about the money he made. The Marxist use of Scripture is a deception.

Heavy, Progressive Income Tax

Civil government has a legitimate purpose and must be funded to accomplish its responsibilities. However, a progressive income tax is immoral. It is legalized theft for the purpose of redistribution of wealth. The system does not reward diligence or protect property. It

promotes laziness, irresponsibility, and dependence (*Ex. 20:15; Prov. 10:4; 2 Cor. 9:7; 2 Thess. 3:1-16*).

Elimination of the Family and Its Inheritance

God created the family unit to reproduce mankind, to train children in the way they should go, and to provide care for its members. Scripture also supports the principle of inheritances (*Gen. 24:35, 36; Prov. 13:22; 2 Cor. 12:14; 1 Tim. 5:8*). However, Marx despised the family unit and promoted the abolition of the family and its inheritances as a way to redistribute wealth and keep families dependent on the State.

Government-Run Education

Marx's manifesto promotes the idea of "free" schools so that the State could indoctrinate children with his doctrines. They are "free" so that there will be no pushback to its agenda. But parents are the God-ordained stewards of children, not the State. Parents are given the responsibility of educating children. The school should fall under parental authority, not the State's (*Deut. 6:1-9; Eph. 6:4; Prov. 22:6*).

Abolition of Religion, Morality, Truth, and History

Marx believed that religion was created by the rich to keep the poor in their place. He also based his beliefs on secular humanism, which eliminated a standard for truth and morality. Marx also wanted to erase history so that he could detach people from their origin and purpose, thereby controlling their futures. "A people without a heritage are easily persuaded," he said. But as the all-wise Creator, God knows best how life, law, and government should work. God also tells us to remember all that He has done in our past, so that we might remember Him in our future. Therefore, we adhere to His wisdom for peace and prosperity (*Prov. 2:6; 9:10; John 14:6; 18:33-38; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17*).

Utopia Is Achievable by a Classless Society

Marx assumed that the elimination of property and classes would create a paradise, a utopia. He also assumed that the State would not be corrupt. He was wrong. Corruption does not come with property or class but with people. On earth, sinners will never achieve perfection. We are "perfected" by salvation through Christ alone, and only He will achieve utopia when He returns.

Capitalism Is an Evil System

Socialists must convince people that capitalism (free market, competition, work-reward system) is outdated, inadequate, and evil. Thus, their propaganda colors capitalists as greedy and selfish. But these accusations are only deceptions. Because of sin, greed and selfishness will be part of any system (*Rom. 3:10, 23; Jer. 16:9*). Communism is no exception.

Profit or self-interest is an incentive for labor (*Eccl. 5:18, 19*). Who wants to work for no profit? But the beauty of capitalism is that it is a win-win for the producer and consumer. The laborer profits only if he produces something that meets the needs of others (unselfishness). Also, capitalism rewards ingenuity, diligence, and excellence, and it has proven to be the best means of escaping poverty. Communism is a means to keep people in poverty.

The Pilgrims were forced to practice communal property when they came to the New World. It was one of the stipulations of their investors. Their experiment with communism proved to be a disaster. Their Governor, William Bradford, wrote in his history *Of Plymouth Plantation*, that the system produced all sorts of misery and complaints. People refused to work only to be rewarded as much as those who did not work. After two years had brought them to poverty and ruin, Bradford chose to divide the land and reward each person by his own productivity. The result was instant success, happiness, and abundance.

Capitalism to Communism

Because free-market capitalism is biblically based and has had such great success in America, the enemy has tried to upend it. However, the enemy has found it difficult to transform people who love capitalism into Communists overnight. Therefore, Communism advocates have had to use a different strategy, and that's where the Marxist "siblings" enter the scene.

The Marxist family includes fascism, socialism, progressivism, and others. While these "siblings" are less violent, they are just as insidious, and they are bent on the same goals, moving towards full Communism. The difference between these "siblings" is the amount of ownership or control the State has over society. For example, *Progressivism* is the idea that progress can only be achieved by State intervention and control. A

fascist State is one that does not own businesses but controls them through taxation and regulation. A *socialist* State is one that owns a few key businesses and controls the rest. A *Communist* State is one that owns and controls everything. The American Founders established a government that was limited by the chains of the Constitution (a republic), thereby making it impossible for these "isms" to exist.

Now, to transform a capitalist society to a Communist society, Marxists have chosen a less violent, more subtle method. After Marx died in 1883, a group of his followers established the Fabian Society, named after the Roman general Fabius, who was known for defeating his enemies gradually. While Marx promoted a sudden, revolutionary, violent overthrow of civil governments, the Fabians opted for a more subtle approach. Instead of Marxism by revolution, they promoted Marxism by evolution, a gradual takeover of nations from the inside, over a long period of time, to go unnoticed by opponents. The logo for the Fabian Society includes a wolf in sheep's clothing.

The Fabians first introduced America to Progressivism, the idea that progress can only be achieved with government intervention. From there, Fabians moved Americans into a welfare scenario, believing that welfare was the path towards socialism. Once a nation buys into socialism, it can be moved rapidly to full Communism. The idea is to move so slowly that the population will not realize what is happening until it's too late. Like the frog boiling in the water, once he figures out that he's in danger, it's too late. He's dead.

No one understood this principle better than Adolf Hitler. In his best-selling book *Mein Kampf* or *My Struggle*, he wrote, "The best way to take control over a people is to take a little of their freedom at a time, to erode rights by a thousand tiny and almost imperceptible reductions. In this way, the people will not see those rights and freedoms being removed until past the point at which these changes cannot be reversed."

The best tool that the Fabians have used to "move the needle" has been crisis. Throughout history, rulers have found that people are more vulnerable and flexible during a time of crisis. Therefore, it is often

said that governments never let crises go to waste. The famous Fabian window pictures a red-hot globe resting on an anvil. Under the anvil are flames being fueled by a man with bellows, while two other men pound the globe with hammers. The symbolism is clear. Fabians fan the flames of crisis to remold or reshape the world as they desire. Sometimes crises are unexpected, and sometimes they are intentionally produced. Either way, crises are the means for Fabians to reach their end.

While the Fabians got to work trying to change America, the Communist takeover has not happened according to schedule. While they made great inroads to compromising and even changing our Constitution, the American people did not rise up and revolt. Marxist leaders believe that's because the Constitution is supported by several unseen pillars, three of which are American patriotism, morality, and religion. Therefore, until those pillars were undermined and removed, America would not fall into Communism.

Joseph Stalin, the dictator of the Soviet Union, once said, "America is like a healthy body, and its resistance is threefold -- its patriotism, its morality, and its spiritual life. If we can undermine these three areas, America will collapse from within."

Thus, Fabians had to change their strategy and assault American culture from the inside. Their second attempt to transform our country has been from the bottom up, by unraveling American morality and commitment to Christian values. This strategy, the idea of Antonio Gramsci, is called "Cultural Marxism." This Cultural Marxism has hit America in two waves. The first wave occurred in the 1960s -- the Cultural Revolution. We are in the midst of the second phase, facing unprecedented pressure to cave into socialism.

To collapse America from within, the church has to be neutralized, compromised, and socialized. While the Church has always been under attack and threatened by false gospels, we are witnessing a barrage of socialist tactics to convince Christians that Marxism is true. Political correctness, identity politics, herd mentality, social justice, critical race theory, and intersectionality are just a few of the arrows aimed at the Church. That will be the topic of our next session.

Like the Other Nations

From Moses to Samuel (400 years), Israel experienced liberty. However, the people changed their minds. Rather than be distinct from other nations, the Israelites desired to be like them and to have a king (*1 Sam. 8*).

Samuel warned God's people what a king would do. He predicted that their children would be taken away for his service (becoming wards of the State), that their land and resources would be taken for government use (loss of private property), that their money would be taken to support the ruler's whims (legalized theft), and that they would become slaves of the State (losing liberty). Still, the people rejected God and begged for a king (*v. 7*). Basically, the people would exist for the State, and the State would become their god.

In essence, the Israelites traded their liberty and independence for dependence and oppression. Unfortunately, Americans have done the same thing. Rosalie Slater, author of the *Christian History of the Constitution*, wrote, "America has repeated the folly of Israel. We've neglected that which produced our freedom. Instead, we've worshipped the effect of our success and forgotten the cause" (biblical principles).

Perhaps the most haunting comment regarding Israel's decision was when God told them, "When you cry out in that day, because of your king you have chosen for yourselves, I will not answer you" (*1 Sam. 8:18*). Why not? The Israelites chose that system of government despite knowing its dangers. While they were free, they elected to put themselves in chains.

We, too, are facing self-made problems in America. While we were free, we unshackled the federal government from its constitutional bonds and, instead, put its chains on ourselves. Will God now answer us when we cry out to Him because of our "king"? We know how we got into this mess, and we know how to fix it. We must return to the Lord, seek and follow His wisdom and do the things we did at first -- biblically and constitutionally. That is the course of true progress.

Conclusion

Clearly, the worldview and goals of Marxism are antithetical to biblical Christianity. In fact, Marx's ideas are not only humanistic but satanic in nature. He suppressed the truth of God and promoted a big lie. Consequently, Marx's worldview was a disaster and has led men and nations to poverty and ruin. God's ways lead to life, peace, and productivity, but man's ways lead to death and destruction (*Prov. 4:12*).

The enemy wants the American Church to be neutralized, compromised, and socialized. We must not let that happen.

In *Acts 20*, the Apostle Paul addressed the Ephesian Elders one last time before departing for Jerusalem. He issued a warning before he left. "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock... I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore, be on the alert..." (*v.28-30*).

Remember the Fabian logo is a wolf in sheep's clothing. We must be vigilant to protect our churches from the savage wolves of Marxism. However, Paul said that before we can protect others, we must first protect ourselves (*v.28*). We must take every idea captive according to Christ, so that we are not taken hostage by the enemies lies.

With Marxism's deceptive practices, many Christians today are being taken captive. While Marx's ideas may sound good on paper, next to biblical truths, they fall apart. "The first to plead his case seems right, until another comes and examines him" (*Prov. 18:17*). The truths of God set men free, but the absence of His truths leads men to bondage.