The Seven Principles Applied to Economics

God's Principle of Individuality

Economics starts with the individual. Economics means the "laws of the house." Each of our homes is an economy. Each person is a producer, consumer, one who trades and is involved in other economic activities every day.

The Christian Principle of self government-

We need to properly govern ourselves in order to direct our economic activities properly. For example, don't go into debt but save, invest and grow your wealth!

America's Heritage of Christian Character

Man works to survive. The proper way to obtain the necessities of life is to work. (Proverbs.6:6-11; 10:4-5; 12:11, 27;13:11; 16:26; 18:9; Psalms 128:2; II Timothy 2:6; Revelation 14:13; II Thessalonians 3:8-10; Genesis 3) The Bible teaches that we are urged to work by our hunger pains. Unbiblical ways to obtain goods and services include: stealing, gambling, wealth transfer schemes, and begging.

Conscience is the most sacred of All Property-

Ownership of private property is essential to a strong nation. Internal property, liberty of conscience, is the most important property. The primary function of civil government is the protection of all property.

The Christian Form of Our Government-

God created man to be free, including having economic liberty (Galatians 5:1). Civil government is ordained by God to perform the limited functions of protection of life, liberty, and property, the administration of justice, and praising those who do good (Romans 13). Therefore, it is not the civil government's role to direct, control, or regulate any aspect of the economy, but rather to *protect economic freedom.* (Acts 5:3,4)

How the Seed of Local Self Government is Planted

A business typically starts with one person having a vision and working to establish a small local business. 60% of businesses in America are small businesses.

The Christian Principle of American Political Union

The market is a marvelous example of unity producing union where buyers and sellers meet and agree to exchange.

Dr. Charles Wolfe on the seven principles applied to economics:[1]

The Principle of Individuality — Biblical economics is at its root, individual, not collective. An economic system is made up of innumerable daily individual decisions. Dr. Wolfe contrasts this principle with collectivism, "under which government is more concerned with groups than with individuals, and forces people to join together in producing goods and in providing for their economic security."

The Principle of Christian Self-government — It takes self-government to save and invest, and to purchase tools, so you might be able to be more productive and have a better financial future. Self government among a people will result in a maximized peace, harmony, and prosperity.

The Principle of Christian Character — Character is needed in the market, on the part of both producer and consumer. Character is needed on the part of civil authorities to exercise only their Biblically legitimate powers. When a people have a great degree of Christian character and self government, they will enjoy a greater economic blessing.

Conscience is the Most Sacred Property — We must realize that it is not material property that is the most important. The Kingdom of God is not meat nor drink… (Romans 14:17) but rather internal property "righteousness, peace and joy" and our conscience, our heart and our spirit. We must never violate our conscience by behaving immorally as a producer or consumer.

The Biblical Form of Government —A Biblically based government will most fully protect our economic liberty. As Dr. Wolfe observes, "Under our Constitution, the government was meant to be strictly limited in its functions and cost — to have just enough power to guard the citizen's rights, but not the power to interfere with honest economic activities."

The Principle of Local Self Government — Economics must be decentralized, with individual buyers and sellers meeting in the market and making voluntary exchanges.

The Principle of Unity Producing Union — When a buyer and a seller come to a "meeting of the minds" to make an exchange, because they believe it will benefit both of them, they contract together and make a trade.

[1] The Principle Approach to American Christian Economics, Charles Hull Wolfe in *A Guide to American Christian Education for the Home and School, The Principle Approach* by James B. Rose