
The Purpose of God's Kingdom Economy on Earth

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Introduction

The Lord God is the creator and owner of the earth and all who dwell in the earth. Therefore the Lord has a purpose for the earth and all those who dwell on the earth. It is vitally important for us to understand the Lord's purpose so that we can design an economy that delivers a return on His investment.

In our first lesson in Kingdom economics we must ask and answer the crucial question, **"What is it that the Lord wants produced in His economy?"** As in all issues regarding the Kingdom of God we therefore ask ourselves, **'How do we first seek the Kingdom of God with regard to economic activity?** Now unlike usual prosperity preachers approach I am not going to try to entice you with the usual "God wants you to prosper"...lets take that as a given. What needs to be answered is Why? and How? And the answer to Why? is not so you can luxuriate in luxury and the answer to How? is not "Tithing". There is far more at stake here than our own pleasures and it is critical that you understand the basics of God's economic purpose.

First Lesson: This is God's earth and you are His property.

"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein." (Psalm 24:1) God owns the earth and He owns the people that dwell on the earth. He owns it by right of creation. Every person is a temporary tenant on God's property and is given a purpose for their creation. Your purpose on your limited time on earth is finish the work that God has given you to do.

Second Lesson: Your primary work is to fulfil God command to Adam

"So God created man in his own image...male and female he created them. And God blessed them and said unto them, Be fruitful and

multiply and replenish the earth and have dominion...over all the earth..." (Gen. 1:26-28) Your primary spiritual duty is to love God, worship Him and fellowship with Him. But your primary economic work is to lead a productive life of subduing the earth and creation to make it fruitful and produce in order for mankind to "multiply". Now this is the crux of the economy of God, its purpose but I want to get back to this in a moment.

Third Lesson: God has called you to make wise economic decisions.

This is what I mean. The heart of economics in any economic textbook is this: We live in a world of scarce resources populated by people with endless wants and needs. Economic decisions are the following:

How do I allocate my limited resources to the most important needs?

How do I increase my resources so that I can meet more needs?

The answer to those two questions are now so different for those in the Kingdom of God and those in the world system that I boldly say this; It is time we establish our own Kingdom economy parallel to the world economy because what they think it is important to spend money on and what we think is important are no longer reconcilable. Secondly our ability to increase our resources through productive work is so much more than the worldly that we need to have control of our own productive enterprises. Why? Plenty of reasons but just a few:

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- We work harder
 - We waste less.
 - We save and invest more.

And the truth is in any economy with a greater amount of practicing Christians we are the ones paying our taxes, staying out of jail, obeying the laws, raising families, saving for the future, enhancing our cultures and societies, our behaviour is less destructive and more productive.

So lets get to the heart of the Kingdom economy with God's command for us to be productive and fruitful.

What is it that God wants us to produce? To answer the economic question:

What are the most valuable things we can produce with our limited time and resources? And how do we design an economy whose purpose is to produce the most value for the Kingdom of God?

The Purpose of the Kingdom Economy

To answer that we need to go to Deuteronomy 8:18, a very famous and oft quoted verse especially by prosperity preachers who conveniently forget to explain a very important clause in that scripture:

"But you shall remember the Lord your God; for it is he that gives you power to create wealth that he may establish his covenant which he swore unto thy fathers..."

So what is the purpose of creating wealth in the Kingdom economy?

Answer: To establish the covenant which God swore to the fathers of Israel.

And what is that covenant that was sworn to multiple fathers of Israel? Or more specifically what was the promise that was the same that God swore to Adam, to Noah, to Abraham, to Isaac, to Jacob? No it is not salvation. You will be surprised what was so important to God that a whole universe had to be created and populated to produce it:

Adam: "Be fruitful and multiply" That is work and make children.

Noah: "And God blessed Noah and his sons with him, Behold my covenant is with you and your descendants...be fruitful and multiply and bring forth abundantly on the earth and multiply in it..." Gen. 8:21-9:17)

Abraham: "And the Lord said to Abram, Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are....for I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth so that if one can count the dust of the earth your descendants can be counted." (Gen. 13:14-17)

Isaac: "And the Lord appeared unto him (Isaac) and said "...I will give you all these lands and will fulfill the oath which I swore to Abraham your father. I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven and will give your descendants all these lands and by your descendants will all the nations of the earth be blessed... (Gen. 26:1-5)

Jacob: "I am the Lord the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your descendants; and your descendants shall be like the dust of the earth...behold I am with you wherever you go." (Gen.28:10-15)

Can you see what is the common denominator in all the covenants that God made with the "fathers" that Moses referred to?

CHILDREN!

God promised to give Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob...assets in the form of land, of the earth. Why? To produce wealth! Why? To support the production and maintenance of children!!!

The most valuable thing that we can produce in the Kingdom economy that requires the production of wealth is : Children!

Why? Because God is a Father and His most

important task for creation is the production of children for His family!

Everything else that is made on this world whether it is gold from mines, cars, houses, planes, fashions, jewelry etc. it all stays behind when we die. It goes to someone else or it just falls apart back into the earth.

Jesus gave us the value of children. He said of such is the Kingdom of God. He gave us the value of a soul. If you gain all the world and lose your soul you have made stupid decision.

It is time for Christians to take hold of the economy to rearrange it for producing what is most important to God. Children!

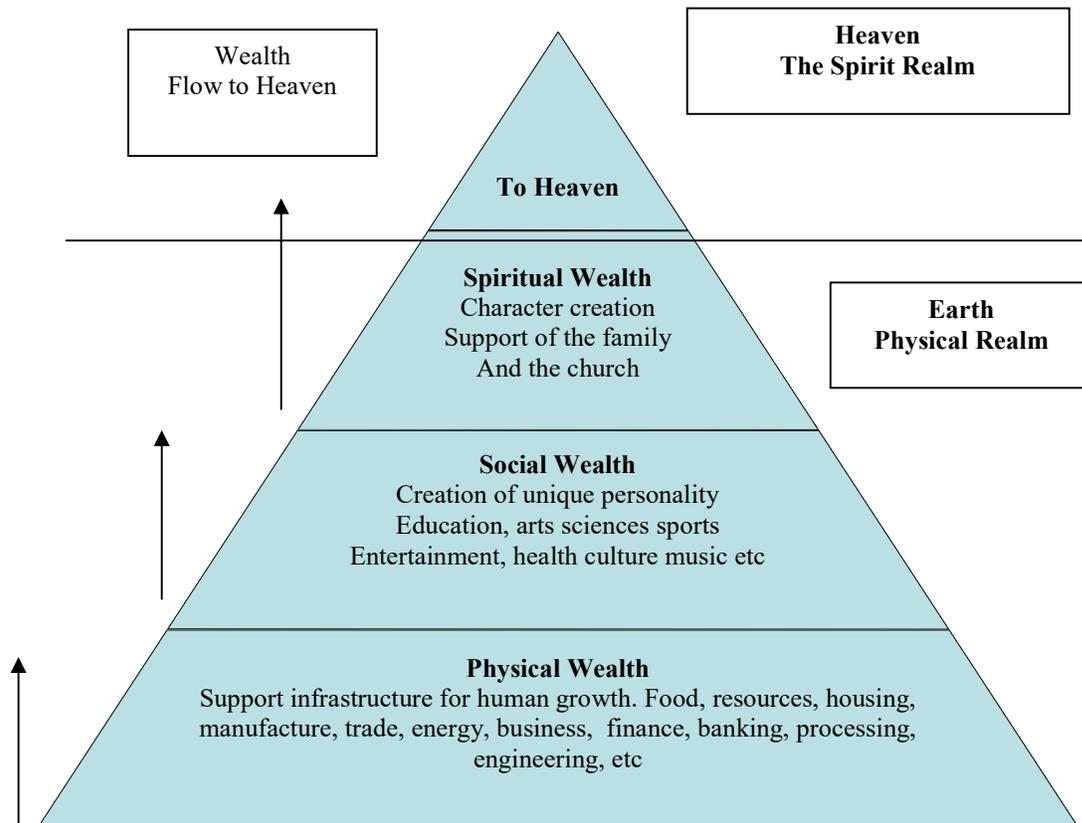
But what breaks do our families get to produce children? Are our home payments tax deduc-

table? My factory costs are. Are our car and transport costs to get the kids to school tax deductible? My diesel factory costs are. Companies get big tax breaks for producing goods and services. Families get no breaks!

The only thing that comes out of this world that has eternal value are human beings. God is a Father who wants an endlessly expanding family. He has given us the resources of not only the earth but our solar system, our galaxy of 400 billion stars and their planets and the 147 billion other galaxies that astronomers have counted. In short we have endless resources available from our Lord to fulfill our dominion mandate handed down by covenant to our fathers.

Church, it is time to design and implement a Kingdom economy that will produce what God wants from this earth...families and children!

Below I have created a chart of the structure of the economy of the Kingdom of God. If you understand this chart you understand what God's purpose is for you, the church, the economy and planet earth....



The Economic Question

The basic questions of any beginner's text book on economics is: Since resources are scarce and human needs and wants are infinite how do we create more resources and how do we allocate those resources where best utilized.

The usual answer in economics is that whatever is considered the most valuable gets to determine where resources are going.

And this is where the great divergence comes between Kingdom economics and worldly economics. It is the issue of what is the highest value that scarce resources can be allocated for?

Under Socialism the state controlled the economy and the state apparatus decided where resources went. Under Fascism the state in partnership with corporate powers allocated resources. Under Free Market Capitalism money has become the highest value and the pursuit of acquiring money means the more money you acquire the more resources are allocated to you.

The Value Question

What is the value system of the Kingdom of God?

Jesus put the value issue in perspective when He said, "*For what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?*" (Mar.8:36) So in God's value estimation one soul is worth more than the entire world. But what makes a soul so valuable? To answer that you must answer the following question: What is the most valuable thing in the world? The answer is critically important which is this: The most important and valuable thing in the world is to bring joy to the heart of God.! What brings joy to not only the Lord but to all of heaven? Here is what Jesus said brings joy to all of heaven, "*I say unto you that there is joy in heaven over one sinner that repents...*" (Luke 15:7) So lets make this value proposition; Every soul has great value because every soul is the object of the incredible love and affection of God.

Now the issue becomes clearer: How can I bring joy to the heart of God? By bringing souls into the Kingdom of God. How do I do that and what has that got to do with economics? Well actually a lot....

Traditionally the church has viewed its mission as saving lost souls. This is a wonderful mission. We have evangelistic crusades. We bring sinners to repentance, we teach and train them to be disciples of Jesus...and all heaven rejoices!

However there is another way to bring souls into heaven which is actually a better way....make new babies and train them from early childhood to be disciples of Jesus.

Every new child gets assigned an angel by the Lord to bring that child to God's purpose for its life.

To win lost souls you need a functioning church. To create new souls you need a functioning family and when family and church work together those new babies do not become lost souls needing evangelism outreach to bring them back to Jesus.

The Economy of the Kingdom: Growing the Family of God

Here is the biggest secret you will ever discover about God, the universe, existence, heaven and the purpose of your life. It is this....

God as to His essence is a Father. He is growing His family. He is making a Bride for His Son Jesus Christ and a family of children for his home in heaven. This is a family thing. Earth and the physical universe is a maternity ward and a nursery. This physical universe must be the womb within which new life is created and sustained. That is the purpose of the Kingdom Economy. Production and sustenance of new life!

When governments measure economic growth they calculate by GNP: Gross National Product. When companies measure growth they measure by increasing revenues and profits. When the Kingdom of God measures growth it

is by family formation and church formation and new souls added to the Kingdom of God through souls saved and new souls created.

The Kingdom Economy and Allocation of Resources

So in the Kingdom economy our economic decisions are based on the reality of heaven. How can we create true wealth here on earth that can be transferred into heaven.

Jesus answered this in an interesting way. *"For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name because you belong to Christ verily I say unto you he shall not lose his reward."* (Mar. 9:41).

The smallest bit of life sustaining effort you can that Jesus could think of, giving someone a drink of water, has eternal reward in heaven. So how does that work? Look at my wealth triangle above and I will explain.

God has birthed you in a physical body in a physical world with all of its challenges, joys, problems, struggles etc so you can do three things here before transferring to heaven in a new spirit body. You must:

- Develop your own unique identity as a person.
- Develop your own unique personality.
- Develop the character of Christ through the growing the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

So God has placed you in a body that needs the resources of a physical world to sustain it. He has placed you in a social world where you can develop your personality traits by interacting with others. He has placed you in a spiritual environment to grow your character with guidance from your parents and your church.

What does that tell us about you and your economic activity and how we structure the Kingdom economy?

Every person is called upon God to do value adding work wherever they are placed. If you are called to grow food. Or work on a factory floor. Or teach children at school...every person

is called upon to add value to God's economy. Jesus assures you that even giving someone a cup of water that is needed to sustain their bodies for just one day will not go without reward in heaven. The Lord is grateful and thankful for whatever effort you make to advance his agenda.

The greatest value we can create is eternal values. Bringing new souls into the Kingdom of God and shaping those souls into the image of Jesus Christ. A mother that brings new life into the world is doing one of the most valuable things that can possibly be done. A father that goes to work each day to sustain his family and guide his children is doing Kingdom work. An entrepreneur that created a business so that a father has employment is doing God's work.

The challenge before us in creating a new Kingdom economy is this:

How can we channel the resources of the world into God's value chain of production? How can we channel those resources away from corporations and governments that waste resources to families and the church that need it for eternal wealth creation?

How can we create new resources and bring those resources for use in the Kingdom of God?

The Second Purpose of the Kingdom Economy

God's economic laws disciple us!

The only thing that transfers from this world to the next is the human soul. But the Lord wants a quality product transferred out of this world and it is this: Our template for shaping the human being is our Lord Jesus Christ. And that template was described in Luke 2:40,52:

"And the child (Jesus) grew and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon him...and Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in favour with God and man."

And this is exactly what the Lord wants our

families to produce for transfer to heaven: **Children that are strong in spirit, growing in stature, filled with wisdom and in favour with God and man.**

So what does this have to do with a Kingdom economy?

Well the key to this is found in Gal. 3:24, ***"Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ."***

I have done an extensive study of the laws of God in the Torah. There are 613 specific laws mentioned. What I notice about these laws are that they naturally divide up to laws for regulating the Spiritual, Social, and Economic world of ancient Israel. This tells me that the Lord is claiming to be Lord over our entire world. The Lord wants to give us His guidelines for creating a spiritual, social and physical economy that will accomplish what He created this world for.

That is why Paul says that the Law brings us to Christ. What He is saying is that the Lord has created this world with its severe laws as a school master that teaches us lessons. Those life lessons that are to be learned in this world have a purpose: They are there to form the character of Christ in us. And understand this very important principle: ***Those lessons and disciplines that create our identity and personality and shape our character cannot be done in heaven!!! They can only be done here on earth.***

But here is our problem. We as a church have largely given up on the social and economic world. We have said as long as I can preach the gospel and get someone saved then that gets the job done...that person is on his way to heaven. Now I have great sympathy with that position. I also have preached the gospel of salvation throughout my life.

But here is what I am sensing from the Lord: Our churches and our families are in serious trouble. This world system and its culture and economy is now highly destructive to the work of God. I can give a long list of destructive

trends and so can you. But the reality is that the banking/corporate/ government nexus out there is destroying the finances of church and families. Our education system is totally dysfunctional. Our culture is glorifying values that are just plain ungodly.

I believe the call of the Lord in this day and for this time is that our culture and our economy must be brought under the Lordship of Jesus Christ so that they can serve the needs of the church and families to do the spiritual work of God.

Zechariah the prophet prophesied that this day would come. This is what He said,

"In that day there shall be upon the bells of the horses Holiness Unto the Lord...yea every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be Holiness Unto the Lord." (Zech 14:20-21) Holiness in Hebrew is "kadosh" meaning "separated" unto the Lord for His use. Whereas previously only the utensils in the Temple were "kadosh" now everything in the country would be "kadosh" unto the Lord...separated for God's use. That day when the economy of the world is sanctified and set apart for God's use is now upon us!

Everything in our world, our cultural and physical economy must be redeemed, sanctified and set apart for God's use. The end purpose of this is to support the work of the church and families to create individuals shaped into the image of Christ for eternal transfer into heaven.

How do we do this?

Well we need to have our church leadership recognize that there are those in the Body of Christ who have a calling upon their lives to go forth into all the world and to redeem the economy and the culture and bring them into the economy of the Kingdom of God.

That will require us to recognize a new Apostolic ministry. An "apostle" is a "sent one". Everyone has a calling to go into the world that God has sent us and to redeem that world for the Kingdom of God. But they need training in the same way that we train preachers to understand

and preach the gospel of salvation and send them into the world to establish churches. We need the same for the new Apostolic companies that are to be raised up:

- We need to design our Kingdom education systems and then train and send out apostolic teams to establish schools and universities.
- We need to design our own culture in the form of music, arts, entertainment, literature and send out Apostolic teams to get these projects moving forward.
- We need to create new businesses dedicated to creating wealth for the Kingdom of God.

Ok, you can see where I am heading with this. Somewhere in God's economy you have been placed to create eternal wealth for the Kingdom of God. But unless we create a Kingdom community where we all start working together we cannot get the job done:

Families and churches can only do their job if they have support from the culture and financial economyand they are not getting any help.

It is time for a new group of Apostolic companies to go forth and create the new economy of the Kingdom of God.

The Bible's Economic Laws bring us to Christ

This world was made by our Lord Jesus. This world was made to discipline us into the image of Christ. The more we grow in Christ, the more we will be able to produce spiritually and economically. God's economic laws bring us to Christ. Here's how...

The World made by Wisdom

Take some time to read the whole chapter of Proverbs 8. There we get the great revelation from the Lord that the world and all of creation was made "by wisdom". I know the Bible tells us that the world was made by the word of God (John 1:1-4) who is Jesus but here is a very important truth: The world was made to reflect that part of God that we call wisdom. Locked into creation are the secrets of wisdom. You learn wisdom by interacting with God's world. And as we saw in our scripture in Luke on the growth

of Jesus as a child, He grew "in stature and wisdom and in favour with God and man." So...

To "grow in stature" : we need a physical economy that will produce sustenance for our bodies.

To "grow in wisdom" : we need to wrestle with God's creation.

To "grow in favour with God" : we need the righteousness of Christ imparted to us.

To "grow in favour with man" : we need to grow in wisdom on how to conduct ourselves.

The Disciplining of this World

For millennia this world has been an enigma to man. This world has a multitude of ways to kill you and make your life a misery...and a multitude of ways to bless you and prosper you and make your life a delight.

We Christians have had a love / hate relationship with this creation of God. We have swung in all poles of extremes; extreme ascetism to get out of the world to extreme materialism to enjoy to bounties of this world. Our theology has traditionally viewed the earth as cursed and our job is to escape this world to a better world in Paradise or hopefully a somehow a different world "a new heaven and new earth" without all the travails of this world.

But in our Kingdom theology we reject these extremes and say confidently that the world has been made exactly the way the Lord intended to make it. That means flies and mosquitoes belong here (Oh if only Noah had brought along a fly swat!) along with weeds, viruses and bacteria. And this is what we discover: That God has made a world full of problems and challenges...and He has made a world full of solutions and abundance. How we meet the challenges and problems to find solutions and abundance is the unique role of the economy and learning wisdom...which inevitably will bring the world to Christ!

The Economic Lessons we have learned...

When we look at today's successful economies and the standard of living we enjoy today and compare it to ages past (actually any culture and

any time before 1500 AD) when the average life expectancy was about 35-46 years of age we all realize we live in wonderful time to be alive. The average lower income person today lives a better life than the great "sun king" of France, Louis 14th. If you doubt that just think on this: Dentistry, antibiotics, refrigeration (i.e. ice cream, cold drinks etc), Internet.

But what is fascinating about our modern economy that brought us all these great advances is that they were based on 3 great Bible principles (with more to come!):

1) Seek knowledge.

Read through the book of Proverbs and see how many times you are entreated to "seek knowledge, understanding and wisdom" as the key to a successful life. For millennia mankind was cursed by ignorance leading to poverty and disease and death. Every culture had its "priesthood" scams of if you only will bring sacrifices of gifts or your children to Marduk, or Baal, or Ceres or whatever god or goddess of fertility then you will have abundance. And then we discovered our crops just needed potassium, nitrates and phosphates....and suddenly an abundance of food! There out went the false gods....leading us closer to Christ.

Malcolm Gladwell the great writer of iconoclast books ("Outliers" etc) made the interesting observation that to understand anything takes about 2000 hours and to master something takes about 10,000 hours. This applies to anything...maths, piano, art...all sorts of hidden secrets that the Lord has encrypted into creation requires the arduous task that Proverbs requires of you....seek. seek. seek and you will find, knock and it shall be opened...how long? At least 2000 hours of concentrated application to understand it and at least 10,000 hours of practice and application to master it. That requires self discipline...a habit that blesses you in all areas of life...including your prayer life...leading you closer to Christ!

What have we learned in our modern economy for success? Knowledge brings success...we call it the knowledge economy. You cannot prosper anymore in this world without an education. You must develop skills. A country must have a world class

educational system to prosper. And that is pure application of the book of Proverbs!

But here is my prediction about man's ceaseless quest for a knowledge economy. As we press to the outliers of physics, biology, astronomy, maths...the incontrovertible reality is starting to emerge: This world is incomparably complex and it is just impossible for it to have happened by chance. There is a design in creation that requires a designer....the knowledge economy will lead us to Christ!

2) Serving others...

I remember early in my life my father who was a businessman drilling this into me, "the key to success in business...find a need and fill it!". That stayed with me. The success of every business on planet earth is dependent on this great discovery: Find a need and fill it! Those that succeed over others are those who serve consumers with better products at lower prices.

Look at the great fortunes that have been made in our time. Google started as a free service to help you navigate the web. It is still free. It also offers you loads of free services. Mail. Maps. Youtube. Android operating systems, and the result: It makes billions in profits and last week a report came out that it is on path to be the first trillion dollar company. The same can be said of most great fortunes: Andrew Carnegie was the richest man at the end of the 19th century by constantly making the price of steel cheaper every year so that it could be used in more and more applications. The same with Henry Ford and the famous Model T, made so cheap that the average person could afford a car.

This "service economy" is a great change from ages past. For ages past wealth was not created but looted from those that had anything. One tribe raided another tribe and stole their food or cattle. Poverty was universal...so was violence and theft. Kings and Barons fought one another for pieces of land. Why? Because land was the sole capital asset that could produce wealth. So you steal land to get richer.

Today people and nations have learned an important lesson. You get more wealth by creating it than stealing it. For that you need to serve the needs of others and they will serve your needs. And this also leads us to Christ...

Philippians 2:5-8, *"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ...who being in the form of God...made himself of no reputation and took upon him the form of a servant..."* The mind of Christ is to serve others. What are the needs of people...what can I do to serve their needs. This is also the mind of a successful business. What are the needs of people and how best can I serve them, because if I do not serve them then someone else will and I will lose my business!

The modern successful service economy will lead us to Christ and the Christians will perfect the service economy of the future!

3) The cooperation of labour...

There was a time when 90% of people were engaged in agriculture and this was common for millennia. Each person growing what he and his family needed and very little surplus for trade. The result was universal poverty. What then happened that as we learned to increase farm output it released more people to do other things, create new products and new services while still getting enough to eat from the farms. As industrialization increased productivity we learned that we can do incredible output of wealth if everyone cooperated to do what they do best. We called it the division of labour.

Henry Ford perfected that system of production with each person doing one particular job on the production line. It was so productive that he doubled the salaries of his workers and lowered the hours of work. We learned that when groups of people come together in cooperation to work together with each one doing his unique contribution then great work gets done, far more than when we try to just have each man on his own working by himself.

This is the great principle that Paul preached in

1 Cor.12:13-24. We are the body of Christ. One person an eye, another a foot,...we need one another. We must work together, we must cooperate together, we must build up the weakest among us because it will affect all of us.

This principle of a body of people working together to produce wealth is the modern embodiment of the company. The weakest are trained to be more productive. Training is paramount. Excellence of products and service is demanded of all for the survival and prosperity of the company. Everyone in the company needs everyone else.

Now let me make a confession here. I do not see this in the church. I see division. I see ministers in a town getting together saying we must be one. But I do not see anyone cooperating with any other church in town to bless them and help them. I don't even see one preacher inviting another from a different church to come and minister to his people. There is no actual reality in the church today of a Body of Christ that actually needs one another.

But this I predict...as the Kingdom of God extends the authority of Christ into the economy of the nation, we are going to really discover what every corporation out there already knows: We need each other, we need to produce excellence, we need to meet the needs of people, we need to train workers for the Kingdom, we need to increase our resources and capital base, we need to grow in wisdom and knowledge and in favour with society around us....and thereby we will grow in favour with God.

And this I further predict...

The economy of the Kingdom of God will lead us to greater growth in Christ and in His image! And we Kingdom people will extend the Kingdom principles outside the church into the world economy...and we will out create, out serve and out cooperate any other corporate entity in the world to become the major economic actor on planet earth...and the meek shall inherit the earth by out producing everyone else.

The coming Kingdom economy will lead to the
