

## **ECONOMICS AND FREEDOM FACT SHEET**

Provided by COPE Ministries and authored by Minister Angela Smith

This particular fact sheet involves self-assessment and self-examination using the Socratic Method while including some food for thought. The government isn't a charitable organization and that's something to keep in mind.

1. Are you mostly a giver, taker, or reciprocal in relations with others?

**Giver?** If you are mostly a giver then establishing or working for a charitable organization may be your calling or offer you the opportunity to apply your virtuous strengths such as generosity and diligence in helping others.

**Taker?** If you are mostly a taker then you are unjust and possibly or most likely a narcissist like Cain (Christian Version of Lucifer (Jewish Version is more like as described in the film "Devil" by M. Night Shyamalan, but narcissists do torment themselves and others before they die so arguably the same as Cain. Then, there's the version where Lucifer just tempts people to be vicious and that's #TaoFu because of free will and the fact that just because a narcissist is tempting you to wrath doesn't mean you aren't responsible to exercise patience or diligence for the sake of justice rather than resorting to wrath. #WrathManagement)).

**Reciprocal?** If you are reciprocal, you likely balance give and take fairly reasonably with understanding of the variables, influences, and challenges in maintaining moderation and balance depending on environmental factors and conditions.

2. How ignorant are you and who is responsible for that?

Historically, impoverished and/or rural areas of the United States pay less taxes. And, property taxes cover local services including schools. So, in economically challenged communities the schools represent what the property taxes in that district can afford. Now, there is a really great charity called "Donors Choose" ([www.donorschoose.org](http://www.donorschoose.org)) which matches economically challenged classrooms/schools around the country with donors who can support upgrades and provide materials for those underprivileged districts. In addition, in many cases economically challenged children are a result of economically challenged parents who may be ignorant as a result of generational factors and inequities at law (i.e. pre-1920s women in US). But, legislatively those inequities referenced have been effectively addressed through Constitutional Amendments even though the Equal Rights Amendment recognizing women as fully equal in the eyes of the law has not yet been ratified. (December, 2019) So, even when it is ratified, women will not be able to apply the new standard at law to incidents that occurred before ratification that would violate the newly established right because retroactive application of new laws is barred by the Ex Post Facto clause of the Constitution. And, if you feel it would be wrong or unjust for a woman to sue or press charges against you for violating her rights when at the time of occurrence what you did was legal, then you likely understand other

areas of social justice where the same argument is made or tries to be applied doesn't work as a matter of law. So, some are barking up the wrong tree.

You can think of it in terms of prohibition as well. Up until it was outlawed, cocaine was sold over the counter and included in soft drinks. It's how Coca-Cola got it's name. Then, it was labeled a controlled substance as a result of public health and safety concerns. The same happened with alcohol for a bit and that era is known as the prohibition era. Now, before the prohibition, perfectly legal to produce, sell, and imbibe. But, then the laws changed and what was legal was no longer legal. And, the law was enforced so anyone violating it after it was made law was penalized. But, retroactively, people weren't prosecuted for doing what was perfectly legal to do prior to prohibition. And, if you live in Colorado or Washington State where recreational use of marijuana is now legal then you wouldn't appreciate the federal government telling those states what to do in violation of state's rights and wouldn't want to be jailed for doing it should the law be repealed or reversed that makes it legal should it again be illegal but you still have some because it was just legal 5 minutes ago.

So, when seeking legislative reforms, it is good to understand existing laws, the US Constitution (foundation of all US law), and the limitations on government for the sake of freedom for everyone. The government is focused on national security and infrastructure. Charities address moral, social, and similar issues. And, the justice system is often where those two things work together or clash. So, if you want to adopt the "Green Party" position or Dr. Jill Stein's talking point "We are the ones we've been waiting for", then to address disparities start a church or charity and directly address it because that's not government's job. And, when they try to help, it looks a lot like human trafficking at times.

3. Are you happy to pay more at Red Lobster than you do at McDonald's?

If you answered "Yes", then you understand that in a free market as a consumer you choose to pay more for higher quality and might avoid a McDonald's that charged like it was a Red Lobster. So, revisiting questions 1 & 2 and the provided food for thought, do you now understand economics and freedom better? How about how to go about addressing poverty and similar issues? Personally, I believe the Black Panther Party had a relatively good plan (meeting social needs, pre-school in the inner city, free lunch for those who otherwise went without, etc) and that because they went political instead of charitable, shit happened. I understand why there are trust issues and were trust issues. But, I honestly believe had the Black Panthers been a church rather than a political movement it would be the most popular church in the country right now.

So, if you are ignorant and/or unskilled, find a charity that can help you address that or enroll in an accredited school or college and address that. Then, maybe you'll one day own a Red Lobster instead of work at McDonald's or worse yet depend on charity while demanding the government becomes one as a result of ignorance.

4. If someone approached you demanding you cover all their living expenses and told you that because you resemble someone who exploited and/or defrauded their ancestors you should pay on moral grounds, even if not legally required to do so as a result of standing to pursue the case (indirect victim and not executor of the ancestor's estate so unable to claim on it's behalf at law within the statute of limitations on the cause(s) of action), how would you honestly respond?

Now, some may say that the laws should apply retroactively in some cases and ignore the US Constitution's Ex Post Facto clause. But, for justice, you need to understand the laws and that the Ex Post Facto clause applies. Now, with reparations for the survivors of the Japanese Internment in the US during WWII, that was legislative. But, the government interned them, not the private sector. And, the government also passed amendments to correct some Constitutional matters as well in other areas. So, survivors who were actually themselves still alive and had been interned unjustly by the US government during WWII were compensated by the government for that. But, for private sector practices that went from legal to illegal in regards to business practices, Ex Post Facto bars recovery from the private sector in regards to government mandates because of the limitations on government authority. So, that means relying on charity, goodwill, and your own initiative is how to get your needs met if uncertain where to start.

And, if you like COPE Ministries approach to addressing poverty, ignorance, and other issues, please consider making a donation. Learn more at <https://www.cope.church/support.htm>.

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