

# ***Economics: A Christian Worldview. Natures of Rulers, Natures of People***

## **TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS/KEY**

### **Prep**

Print this page and a copy of Page 2 for each student.

### **Time**

12-15 minutes

### **Instructions**

1. Hand out Page 2 to students.
2. Give students 8-10 minutes to complete the questions.
3. Students discuss in pairs/groups first, then as a class.
4. Ask students to first share their answers.

### **Answer Key**

#### **Part 1**

*Matthew 22:39 – Mankind already loves himself; if he's able to love others as much as he loves himself, he is doing well.*

*Ephesians 5:29 – People don't hate themselves; they love themselves and take care of themselves naturally first.*

*These verses indicate (indirectly) that an economy that functions will take into account the sure-as-gravity fact that mankind is inclined to first take care of his own needs, not to artificially try to force him to work on behalf of others in a planned economic state.*

#### **Part 2**

*A voluntary-exchange economy allows man to try to benefit himself—but he enriches himself by providing goods and services that others want, therefore helping both himself and others.*

*Central planners ignore this characteristic of mankind and try to mold him into something completely different—to seek others' benefit equally as he does his own. Unselfish behavior does happen at the hands of people, but it's no way to base an economic system on; it violates this characteristic of man and therefore never works.*

#### **Part 3**

*Central planners see mankind as needing to be molded into unselfish individuals and happy to work on the behalf of others. But those planners see themselves as almost god-like in their ability to mold adults in this fashion, as well as make decisions for millions of individuals. This is a gross overestimation of their abilities—and as history has shown, cannot possibly work.*

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## **Part 1 – The Bible on Man’s Nature**

Briefly explain what the following verses mean:

“Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself” (Matthew 22:39).

“No man ever yet hated his own flesh” (Ephesians 5:29).

How do both of these verses (indirectly) give direction on how an economy should function?

## **Part 2 – The Nature of People**

Given the Bible’s explanations of mankind’s nature (and your own observations of others as well as yourself), answer these two questions:

1. How does a system of voluntary exchange (“capitalism”) harness this characteristic of mankind to enrich not only and individual through his pursuits, but others as well? Give one example of this.
2. What do rulers who want to implement a system of socialism or communism (or any kind of government-directed economy) get wrong about human nature, and how does this lead to those systems’ failure?

## **Part 3 – The Nature of Rulers**

How do government central planners misjudge their *own* natures/abilities when it comes to their overseeing or running a planned economy?