

THE DEVIL'S COUNTERFEIT: MARXISM BIBLICALLY CONSIDERED

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INTRODUCTION

"Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them." (Eph. 5:11)

Satan has been counterfeiting God's truth since the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:1–5). Jesus called Satan "the father of lies" (John 8:44 ESV), and Paul warned that he disguises himself as "an angel of light" (2 Cor. 11:14–15 ESV). Christians must test every teaching by Scripture (Acts 17:11; Col. 2:8; 1 John 4:1) and "take every thought captive to obey Christ" (2 Cor. 10:5 ESV).

Pastor R.G. Lee famously said, "**The devil always pays in counterfeit money.**" Marxism is one of those counterfeits.

The term "Marxism" here refers to the worldview developed by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. Socialism and communism are its principal expressions. While not every socialist calls himself a Marxist, modern socialism has been profoundly shaped by Marxist ideas.

Many people support socialist ideas because they sincerely want to help the poor. The Bible commands us to love our neighbors and care for those in need (Matt. 22:37–40; James 1:27). The issue is whether Marxism agrees with God's Word. **It doesn't.**

Marxism functions as a counterfeit religion. It answers life's biggest questions very differently than Scripture. It offers a false god, a false view of man, a false savior, a false view of justice, and a false gospel.

COUNTERFEIT 1: A FALSE GOD

The Bible begins with God. "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen. 1:1 ESV; John 1:1–3). Everything belongs to God (Ps. 24:1), everyone answers to Him (Rom. 14:12), and "the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom" (Prov. 9:10 ESV).

Marx rejected God and famously called religion "the opium of the people." Rather than God's Word, Marxism looks to man, political power, and violent revolution. Scripture warns against exchanging "the truth about God for a lie" (Rom. 1:25 ESV). **Marxism is one of those lies.**

Because Marxism rejects the true God, it builds its answers to life's greatest questions on a false foundation (Prov. 9:10; Col. 2:8).

COUNTERFEIT 2: A FALSE VIEW OF MAN

The Bible teaches that everyone is created in God's image (Gen. 1:26–27; Gen. 9:6; James 3:9). God “made from one man every nation of mankind” (Acts 17:26 ESV). Everyone, regardless of race, gender, or social class, has equal value before God.

The Bible also teaches that every person is a sinner: “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23 ESV). Jesus taught that evil comes “from within, out of the heart of man” (Mark 7:21–23 ESV). Our greatest problem isn't our social class but our sinful heart.

Marxism primarily defines people by economic class and teaches that history is driven by conflict between oppressors and the oppressed. The Bible condemns oppression and injustice (Lev. 19:15; Isa. 10:1–2; James 2:1–9), but it identifies **sin**—not class—as mankind's deepest problem. Before God, all people stand equally guilty and equally in need of Jesus Christ (Rom. 10:12–13).

COUNTERFEIT 3: A FALSE SALVATION

The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ is mankind's only Savior. Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6 ESV). Peter declared, “There is salvation in no one else” (Acts 4:12 ESV).

Marxism offers a very different means of salvation. Instead of looking to Christ and His Word, it looks to violent revolution and government power. Marx and Engels wrote that communist aims could be achieved only by the “**forcible overthrow of all existing social conditions.**” The Bible teaches that only Christ can change the human heart (2 Cor. 5:17). Government may punish evil and preserve order (Rom. 13:1–4), but it can't forgive sin or give eternal life.

Scripture warns, “Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation” (Ps. 146:3 ESV). Our true hope has never been in politics, revolution, or government. Our true hope is in Jesus Christ alone.

COUNTERFEIT 4: A FALSE VIEW OF JUSTICE

God is perfectly just (Deut. 32:4). He commands His people to “do justice, and to love kindness” (Mic. 6:8 ESV), defend the weak (Prov. 31:8–9), and care for those in need (James 1:27; Gal. 6:10). But biblical justice is rooted in God's character and God's law, **not class conflict**.

God owns everything (Ps. 24:1), yet He entrusts people with work, property, and responsibility. “You shall not steal” and “You shall not covet” (Ex. 20:15, 17 ESV) recognize private property. Christians are commanded to work (2 Thess. 3:10), provide for their families (1 Tim. 5:8), and give generously—not “under compulsion” (2 Cor. 9:7 ESV).

Some claim Acts 2 and 4 teach socialism or communism. They don't. These early believers gave **voluntarily** to meet real needs; **no government seized or redistributed their property**.

Peter told Ananias, “While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal?” (Acts 5:4 ESV). His sin was lying to God, not owning property or keeping the proceeds.

Marxism seeks justice primarily through collective ownership, government force, and redistribution. Though government must punish wrongdoing impartially (Rom. 13:1–4), Christian generosity must be willing and motivated by love (2 Cor. 9:7) - not force.

COUNTERFEIT 5: A FALSE GOSPEL

The gospel is the good news that Jesus Christ died for our sins, was buried, and was raised on the third day (1 Cor. 15:3–4 ESV). All who repent and believe in Him are saved by grace through faith, not by works (Mark 1:15; Eph. 2:8–9).

Marxism offers a false gospel. It promises redemption through revolution, economic change, and an alleged classless society instead of reconciliation with God through Jesus Christ. The Bible warns against “philosophy and empty deceit” that is “not according to Christ” (Col. 2:8 ESV) and against accepting “a different gospel” (Gal. 1:6–9 ESV). This includes Marxism.

Jesus said, “You will recognize them by their fruits” (Matt. 7:16 ESV). Before considering the historical record, Christians should already reject Marxism because it contradicts God’s Word. History simply confirms what Scripture teaches.

THE HISTORICAL FRUIT OF MARXISM

History illustrates what repeatedly happens when Marxist ideas gain absolute political power.

Because biblical Christianity recognizes a higher authority than the state, Marxist governments have routinely treated it as an obstacle. One of the first acts of Marxist regimes has been to suppress, control, or eliminate independent religious influence, especially biblical Christianity.

The tyrannical pattern of Marxism has been terrifyingly consistent.

Under **Lenin and Stalin**, millions died through executions, forced-labor camps, deportations, purges, and famines caused or greatly worsened by government policy.

Under **Mao**, the Great Leap Forward and Cultural Revolution brought persecution and tens of millions of premature deaths.

Under **Pol Pot**, roughly one-fourth of Cambodia’s population died through execution, starvation, disease, and forced labor.

North Korea, a communist dictatorship rooted in Marxism-Leninism, continues to impose severe persecution on Christians.

Scholarly estimates differ, but Marxist regimes unquestionably caused **tens of millions of deaths** during the twentieth century. The issue isn't simply that Marxism has failed economically. Its historical fruit has repeatedly included persecution, tyranny, and mass death.

COMMON OBJECTION: "BUT WE'LL DO IT DIFFERENTLY."

Supporters commonly argue that previous Marxist governments failed because the wrong people were in charge or because they "weren't real Marxists." Yet every generation has made the same claim with similar results.

Scripture explains why. The problem isn't bad leaders or a flawed system but the sinful human heart. "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick" (Jer. 17:9 ESV). Jesus taught that evil comes from within (Mark 7:21–23), and "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23 ESV).

No political system can remove sin. Only Jesus Christ can change the human heart (2 Cor. 5:17). Until people are reconciled to God, no government or revolution can produce the so-called "utopian" world Marxism promises.

CONCLUSION

Pastor R.G. Lee was right: "**The devil always pays in counterfeit money.**" Marxism borrows biblical words like *justice*, *compassion*, *equality*, and *liberation*, but it rejects the God of the Bible, redefines mankind's problem, offers false hope, and proclaims a false gospel.

Christians must "take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead **expose them**" (Eph. 5:11 ESV). We must test every worldview by Scripture (Acts 17:11; Col. 2:8; 1 Thess. 5:21), speak "the truth in love" (Eph. 4:15 ESV), and remember that Jesus said, "You will recognize them by their fruits" (Matt. 7:16).

Our hope has never been in political revolution, economic systems, or human philosophy. "Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation... Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God" (Ps. 146:3, 5 ESV). Jesus Christ alone is "the way, and the truth, and the life" (John 14:6 ESV), and "there is salvation in no one else" (Acts 4:12 ESV).