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### Christianity and Capitalism: An Uneasy Coexistence

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## Introduction

- The purpose of my research is to **interrogate the role of a Christian in late capitalism**
- Research questions are as follows:
  - 1.) What is the Christian Truth as it relates to the capitalist Idea?
  - 2.) Why must Christians bother to follow this Truth?
  - 3.) What can Christians do to be better disciples of the Truth?

## Methods

- **Exegesis of the Catholic Bible**
- **Close analysis of a selection of texts**
- Texts Analyzed: *The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism* by Naomi Klein, *Crack Capitalism* by Michael Holloway, and *What Lies Beyond Capitalism? A Christian Exploration* by David Bentley Hart

## Definition of the Truth

- Christians are called to sell what they have and give to the poor: **“everyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple”** (Luke 14:33, NABRE)
- However, a life without clothes, shelter, or food will be a short and painful one. Therefore, **one can respond to this call to own nothing by sharing everything**, like the Apostles: “The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common” (Acts 4:32, NABRE)

## Reasons to Follow the Truth

- The capitalist organization of society and the measures taken by groups and individuals to maintain that organization are completely antithetical to the teachings of Jesus Christ.
- **Capitalism is maintained through brutal violence** (Klein 465-66, 67). Antithetical to Matthew 7:12 and Exodus 20:13: the “golden rule” and “thou shalt not kill,” respectively.
- **Capitalism places commodities and prices in the place where loving relations between two children of God ought to be** (Holloway 110). Flagrantly violates Christ’s New Commandment: “Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another” (John 13:34, NABRE)

## Conclusions

- Thus, I find Christianity and capitalism to be incompatible. Therefore, to work towards a more Christian reality (and perhaps the end of capitalism) I suggest that Christians:
  - Follow the example of the Apostles, **sell their excesses, and either form a commune or join a pre-existing one**
  - **Stop eating meat**, due to its environmental impact

## Discussion

- Do you think that Christianity has the power to bring about **positive, radical change**? Why or why not? Has your opinion changed?
- Do you agree with the findings presented here? Why or why not? What would you add or omit, were you making this argument?