

The theory of the kingdom

A unified model of human agency

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Series in Philosophy of Religion



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Abstract

This original monograph presents a theory of the economy of the kingdom of God. The theory implies a model of human agency integrating known essentials of the real economy with the eternal kingdom economy. The kingdom economy is characterized by life, peace and growth. The model shows effective agents produce kingdom economy outputs by being salt and light, arresting corruption and revealing truth. Individual and organizational practices that arrest corruption and reveal truth can resolve longstanding real economy shortcomings. God is the owner in the model. God is holy, loving, sovereign and unlimited. The owner is the monopolist source of spiritual credence goods necessary for productive agency. The quantity of goods supplied is in proportion to an agent's relationship and offering of time and money. The owner relates to agents through an internally inscribed behavioral contract. The owner intervenes in the real economy by communication rather than by restricting individual freedom.

Practical implications of the model include: 1) Group bias may be resolved by the privileged surrendering oversight of disputed resources to a small group of mature aggrieved individuals. 2) Testing is required to promote agents to new levels of authority and productivity. Testing tends to benefit all stakeholders. 3) In the kingdom economy the primary method of lowering agency costs is bonding. Bonding means increased time spent in activities such as continuing education, apprenticeship and community building.

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