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## Reclaiming the Marketplace: A Christian Response to Secularization and Cultural Marxism

### A. Introduction and Agenda

In contemporary society, secular forces and influential ideologies like cultural Marxism are progressively marginalizing the Christian faith. They aim to fundamentally reshape concepts of justice, work, and social order by extending state authority into every domain of human existence.

This presentation draws on key Christian resources to show why business and the marketplace are vital arenas for faithful witness:

- **Ed Silvano's "Anointed for Business"** - every business can be a ministry vehicle to transform society with the gospel.
- **Wayne Grudem's "Business for the Glory of God"** - how business activities—like ownership, profit, competition, and employment—can imitate God's character and glorify Him when done biblically.
- **Abraham Kuyper's framework of sphere sovereignty** - different areas of life—family, church, business, state—each have their own God-given authority and should operate under Christ's ultimate sovereignty.

### Why This Matters

Cultural Marxism is a worldview that takes classic Marxist conflict theory—the division of society into oppressors and oppressed—and applies it not just to economics, but to every area of culture and social life. It views traditional Western and Christian norms, institutions, and values as inherently oppressive systems that must be systematically dismantled in the name of human liberation.

This ideology is fundamentally atheistic. It rejects biblical authority, the created order of God, and the gospel's central message of individual repentance, personal faith in Jesus Christ, and reconciliation with God. Instead, it promotes a human-centered vision of salvation through social and cultural revolution.

At its core, Cultural Marxism wages a direct assault on key biblical truths:

1. It replaces absolute truth with relativism.
2. It undermines the God-designed structure of the traditional family.



3. It erases biblical gender roles and the binary distinction between male and female.
4. It shifts responsibility away from the individual before God and toward collective grievances based on class, race, gender, and other identity categories.

What is presented as social justice or progress is, in reality, a full-scale rejection of Genesis 1-3 and the gospel. It substitutes spiritual salvation through Christ with political and cultural liberation narratives. Sin is redefined as systemic oppression rather than personal rebellion against a holy God. Redemption is sought through human activism and power restructuring, not through the cross and the resurrection.

The stakes could not be higher. This is not merely a philosophical debate or a difference of political opinion. It is a profound spiritual battle that reaches into every major institution—family, church, education, media, government, and law—and ultimately concerns the souls of men and the eternal truth of God's Word.

The hour is urgent. This worldview is advancing rapidly, reshaping minds, laws, and culture before our eyes. Make no mistake: the conflict is here, it is now, and it demands clear discernment, courageous conviction, and unwavering faithfulness to the biblical gospel. The souls of this generation—and the ministry of the church—are at risk.

### **Presentation Agenda**

1. Challenge
2. Biblical Foundation
3. Key Insights from Several Sources
4. Why Christians Should Respond
5. How Christians Should Respond
6. Challenges, Opportunities, and Vision
7. Call to Action

**My earnest hope and prayer** is that fellow Christians would come to see business not just as a means of earning a living or pursuing a career, but as a true vocational calling from God. In this sphere, we have a powerful opportunity to serve the Lord by applying gospel principles—creating good, serving others with integrity, stewarding resources wisely, and shaping the world in ways that bring glory to His name.

## **B. Presentation**

### **1. Challenge**

In today's world, secularization has systematically worked to confine religious faith, particularly Christianity, to the private sphere, excluding it from public discourse, education, policy-making, and especially the economy. This process has accelerated with the rise of "woke" ideologies, often influenced by cultural Marxism, which reframe traditional values through lenses of identity politics, relativism, and forced equity. These forces portray Christianity as an outdated or even oppressive relic, promoting instead a vision of society where state-driven redistribution replaces personal responsibility, and divisive concepts like



critical race theory undermine biblical truth concerning the nature of God, a biblical anthropology, and a biblical view of the created order.

The impact on the economy has been profound: frameworks such as DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion) and ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) criteria are increasingly mandated, embedding antibiblical agendas. For example, DEI initiatives prioritize superficial diversity metrics, even promoting a new kind of racism, over merit and competence, leading to inefficiency, lower quality standards and deep resentment, while ESG standards increasingly enforce environmental policies that ignore humanity's God-given dominion over creation, and worship the creation rather than the Creator while advancing social goals that contradict clear Scriptural teachings on family and gender and advocate for the LGBTQIA2S basket of moral perversity. As Francis Schaeffer warned in his works, *How Should We Then Live?* and *A Christian Manifesto*, Christians must engage every sphere of culture to prevent this erosion. Without intervention, the public square becomes a vacuum filled with secular narratives that distort truth, hinder human flourishing and eventually lead to social and economic collapse.

Expanding on this, consider how these ideologies have infiltrated corporate boardrooms and investment decisions, pressuring businesses to adopt policies that celebrate moral relativism while sidelining Christian ethics. The major Canadian banks starkly demonstrate this moral erosion: they champion so-called 'family' structures antithetical to God's ordained order, seemingly indifferent to how these shifts may collapse the stable economies necessary for their ongoing profitability.

The sidelining of Christian ethics also strips away opportunities for witness and perpetuates economic systems that favor socialism over free markets. But it is free markets that best reflect human liberty and drive moral accountability. Furthermore, this overreach aligns with the collapse of distinct societal spheres, as Abraham Kuyper critiqued in his doctrine of sphere sovereignty, where the state or dominant ideologies improperly dominate areas like business and education, violating their God-given autonomy. In the context of cultural Marxism, this manifests as a totalizing force that seeks to homogenize all spheres under secular or ideological control, eroding the independence of the marketplace and forcing conformity to antibiblical norms under the power of an increasingly totalitarian State that seeks to replace God.

## 2. Biblical Foundation

At the heart of our response is the biblical foundation of work and vocation, rooted in Genesis 1:28 - the cultural mandate: "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." This command isn't limited to physical labor; it encompasses stewarding all of creation—economic, cultural, and social—for God's glory. Work was instituted before the Fall as a good gift from God, reflecting His own creative and providential nature, and it remains a form of worship when done "as to the Lord" (**Colossians 3:23**).

This perspective dismantles the artificial sacred-secular divide that has plagued the church, where pastoral roles are elevated as "holy" while business is seen as worldly or neutral. Scripture affirms that all honest work, including entrepreneurship and finance, is sacred when aligned with God's purposes. It equips believers to address real-world needs, love their



neighbors through provision and innovation, and take every thought captive to Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5).

In expanding this foundation, we see how the Fall introduced toil and exploitation into work, but Christ's redemption restores it, allowing Christians to reverse the curse by bringing order, beauty, and justice to fallen systems like the marketplace. Kuyper's sphere sovereignty builds on this biblical groundwork, emphasizing that God's sovereignty extends over distinct spheres of life, each deriving authority directly from Him, not from human institutions, thereby providing a scriptural basis for resisting secular overreach in economic domains.

### 3. Key Insights From Several Sources

#### a) Ed Siloso's Anointed for Business

Ed Siloso's *Anointed for Business* provides a transformative lens, arguing that the marketplace is not a secular domain but a primary mission field where Christians are divinely anointed to bring about change. He dismantles four key misbeliefs: first, that true ministry is reserved for clergy, second, that the marketplace is inherently ungodly and controlled by darkness, third, that pursuing profit is incompatible with serving God, and fourth, that societal transformation occurs solely through traditional church programs. Instead, Siloso posits that every business is God's business, and believers must tear down the walls separating faith from commerce to unleash an unprecedented wave of marketplace revival.

His approach emphasizes "prayer evangelism" in professional settings—building relationships, blessing others, and demonstrating Christ's power through ethical practices and supernatural interventions. Siloso draws on biblical figures like Joseph in Egypt, Daniel in Babylon, and Lydia the businesswoman to illustrate how marketplace believers have historically influenced empires and societies. In expanding this, Siloso's vision includes practical models for city-wide transformation, where business leaders collaborate to address poverty, injustice, and spiritual strongholds, ultimately leading to renewed communities that reflect kingdom values over secular ideologies. Remember it was Christians who built our first universities and hospitals before handing them over to the State. We know how that is turning out!

#### b) Wayne Grudem's Business for the Glory of God

Complementing Siloso, Wayne Grudem in *Business for the Glory of God* asserts that core business activities are inherently morally good when conducted biblically, as they imitate God's character. Elements like private ownership mirror God's sovereignty over creation; productivity echoes His work in Genesis; profit represents wise stewardship of abundance; competition fosters excellence and innovation; and commercial transactions build trust and community. Grudem counters secular distortions, such as viewing profit as greed or markets as exploitative, by showing how these aspects, when redeemed, promote freedom, responsibility, and the alleviation of global poverty. He emphasizes that business glorifies God by meeting human needs and creating value that points to the Creator's provision. In the face of cultural Marxism, Grudem's framework defends free markets as superior for justice, arguing that wealth creation through voluntary exchange lifts societies far more effectively than forced redistribution. Expanding on this, Grudem addresses potential abuses like inequality or environmental harm, advocating for biblical checks such as generosity, Sabbath rest, and



ethical governance to ensure business serves the common good without compromising on truth.

### c) Abraham Kuyper's Sphere Sovereignty

Abraham Kuyper, the 19th-20th century Dutch theologian, statesman, and founder of the Free University of Amsterdam, introduced the concept of sphere sovereignty as a key element of his Christian worldview. Sphere sovereignty posits that human society is composed of distinct "spheres" or domains—such as family, church, state, education, business, arts, and science—each operating with its own God-given authority and responsibility. These spheres derive their sovereignty directly from God, not from the state or any other human institution, and they are meant to flourish independently while cooperating in harmony under divine lordship. Kuyper argued that no single sphere, particularly the state, should dominate or interfere in the internal affairs of others, as this would violate God's ordained order and lead to tyranny or idolatry.

This doctrine is deeply rooted in the Reformation's emphasis on the priesthood of all believers and the comprehensive sovereignty of Christ over all creation (**Colossians 1:15-20**). Kuyper's famous declaration, "There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry: 'Mine!'" underscores that every sphere is accountable to God alone for its stewardship. In applying this to modern challenges, sphere sovereignty directly counters secularization and cultural Marxism by resisting the totalizing tendencies of these ideologies. Secularism often elevates the state as the ultimate authority, collapsing other spheres into its control—such as mandating ideological conformity in businesses through regulations or in education through curricula that exclude Christian perspectives. Cultural Marxism exacerbates this by promoting a class-struggle narrative that justifies state intervention to enforce "equity" across spheres, eroding the autonomy of the marketplace (e.g., through forced DEI policies) and the church (e.g., restricting religious freedoms, such as during COVID, telling the church when it can worship, usurping the place of Christ and legislation such as Bill C-9 that defines portions of God's Word as hate speech). Kuyper's framework empowers Christians to assert the independence of economic spheres, viewing business as a sovereign domain where believers exercise dominion under God, free from undue state or cultural interference, thereby fostering true pluralism and justice.

## 4. Why Christians Should Respond

Christians cannot afford passivity in this cultural battle. Without action, we cede ground to falsehoods that redefine reality, violating our call to demolish arguments against God's knowledge (**2 Corinthians 10:5**). Responding fulfills the cultural mandate, positioning believers as stewards who subdue economic spheres for Christ's lordship. As Silvano highlights, marketplace Christians are the catalytic force for societal transformation, with their influence reaching far beyond church walls. Grudem adds that active engagement promotes true human flourishing, countering divisive ideologies with unity in Christ (**Galatians 3:28**).

Kuyper's sphere sovereignty further compels response by framing the current challenges as assaults on God's ordained structure; allowing secular or Marxist overreach to collapse spheres undermines divine sovereignty and invites societal disorder. Moreover, the eternal impact is profound: by reclaiming dominion, we redeem culture, demonstrate the gospel's power, and prepare for Christ's return. Statistics show a decline in Christian influence in business



leadership—over 70% of Fortune 500 CEOs identify as non-religious or secular—highlighting the urgency. Yet, potential for growth is immense, with faith-based investing growing by 30% annually, offering a pathway to reverse trends and amplify kingdom work. Embracing sphere sovereignty equips us to resist these trends by advocating for the autonomy of business as a God-ordained sphere, promoting a pluralistic society where Christian witness thrives without coercion.

## **5. How to Respond**

### **a) Embrace Anointing**

To respond effectively, first embrace your marketplace role as a divine anointing. View business as a calling equal to any ministry, infusing workplaces with faith through prayer, ethical decision-making, and discipleship. Silviso's prayer evangelism model involves blessing colleagues, identifying needs, and ministering in the Spirit, turning offices into revival hubs. Model integrity to counter exploitation narratives, showing that Christian business leads to sustainable success and community impact. Expand this by incorporating ongoing spiritual formation, such as Bible studies in boardrooms or faith-integrated leadership training, to build resilient teams that resist secular pressures. Drawing from Kuyper, treat the business sphere as sovereign under God, asserting its right to operate according to biblical principles without external ideological mandates.

### **b) Steward Capital**

Next, steward capital with biblical discernment. Invest redemptively by funding ventures that uphold life, family, and freedom, while avoiding compromised ESG or DEI frameworks that promote unbiblical agendas like gender relativism or racial quotas. Use shareholder influence, such as proxy votes, to advocate for ethical governance based on merit, real stewardship, and justice. Grudem's emphasis on stewardship means allocating resources to create value that glorifies God, such as supporting affordable housing or clean energy innovations without ideological overreach. Expand by developing personal investment criteria grounded in Scripture, perhaps through faith-based funds that prioritize long-term societal good over short-term gains, and educate others on the moral dimensions of finance. Sphere sovereignty reinforces this by viewing capital allocation as an exercise of authority within the economic sphere, independent of state-driven collectivism, allowing Christians to direct resources toward kingdom-aligned initiatives free from Marxist-influenced controls.

### **c) Build Community**

Finally, foster community and advocacy. Build networks of Christian business leaders for mutual support, mentoring, and collective investing. Partner with churches and organizations for city transformation, as Silviso envisions, addressing local issues like poverty through microfinance or job creation. Advocate publicly against secular overreach via op-eds, policy engagement, or philanthropy that models generosity. Expand this by leveraging technology for global collaboration, such as online platforms for sharing best practices, and integrating apologetics training to equip believers in defending faith amid cultural debates. Kuyper's model encourages inter-sphere cooperation without domination, so collaborate across



spheres—like business and church—to uphold each other's sovereignty, resisting cultural Marxism's push for unified ideological conformity.

## 6. Challenges, Opportunities, and Vision

The path isn't easy—challenges include regulatory pressures to adopt woke policies, cultural backlash against Christian values, and internal temptations to prioritize profit over principles. Sphere sovereignty highlights an additional challenge: the erosion of sphere boundaries by secular forces that empower the state to dictate norms in business, leading to a loss of religious freedom and moral autonomy. Yet, these are opportunities to demonstrate countercultural faith as "Christian rebels," shining light in darkness (**Matthew 5:14**). The global marketplace offers vast reach, with technology enabling data-driven strategies for maximum impact. Silviso's testimonies of transformed cities, Grudem's biblical affirmations, and Kuyper's vision of pluralistic sovereignty inspire a vision of victory: economies redeemed, societies renewed, and Christ's dominion advanced through respected, independent spheres. Imagine boardrooms filled with prayer, investments funding gospel initiatives, and cultures shifting toward truth—this is the transformative potential when believers respond faithfully, upholding sphere sovereignty against modern threats.

## 7. Call to Action

a) **Commit today** – begin with personal and immediate steps:

- Assess your own business, career, or investments for biblical alignment.
- Join a Christian network.
- Start small, practical acts of faithfulness – e.g., initiating workplace prayer groups or Bible studies.

Dive deeper into God's Word. The AI revolution is going to increasingly promote an all-out attack on the Scriptures. The concern is that AI—driven by secular tech giants, and trained on vast datasets reflecting worldly biases—will amplify human rebellion against God (Romans 1:18-25). AI won't just provide information; it will shape worldviews, authority structures, and even how people encounter the living Word.

Augment your study of the Scriptures with other key resources. Let's reclaim the marketplace for God's glory—your calling awaits.

**But let us go further.** This cannot remain merely an individual or professional response. It must become a **collective, prayer-fueled movement** that engages our churches at every level.

b) **Practical Steps in the Church**

- Gather with fellow believers in your local congregation to:
  - Pray fervently together
  - Confess sins corporately



- Seek God’s face for renewal  
(James 4:8 - “Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”)

Encourage pastors and church leaders to preach boldly and faithfully apply the gospel—along with its full implications—to every area of life.

Teach and instruct our congregants about the following:

- The cultural mandate - Genesis 1-3 (The most important foundational words every written)
  - Sphere sovereignty
  - The priesthood of all believers
  - The calling of believers in the marketplace
- Integrate these truths into sermons, small groups, and discipleship programs.
  - Form intentional prayer partnerships between local churches and Christian business networks to intercede specifically for:
    - The marketplace
    - Protection against ideological overreach
    - Bold witness in workplaces

### c) The Ultimate Prayer: Great Awakening

Above all else, let us cry out together—with one voice and one heart—for a deep and sweeping spiritual revival that moves across Canada, the United States, and throughout the entire world. In these urgent times, we desperately need God’s mercy to rouse His church from spiritual slumber, revive cold hearts, and bring awakening to nations that have drifted far from Him.

- **Romans 13:11** – “Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.”
- **Psalms 85:6** – “Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?”

Humble ourselves, pray, seek His face, and turn from wicked ways – trusting His promise:

- **2 Chronicles 7:14** – “if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

### d) The Vision

May this awakening:

- Begin in our hearts and homes,
- Ignite in our churches,
- Overflow into the marketplace,



- Extend to every sphere of society.

May the presence of the Lord bring **repentance** and **refreshing** (as promised in Acts 3:19-20: “Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord”), and a massive turning to Christ across the nations.

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