

“Economics Religion”

Simply explained, religion is a way of life.

Why does one adopt a religion? Bishop T.D. Jakes says that life brings baggage, which reduces mental health and well being. It is a drain on positive energy and affects productivity. It is detrimental to harmonious interpersonal relationships. Everybody's got baggage, everybody is affected by baggage, and everybody's baggage affects others.

Religion provides a way/pattern for life: a psychological, social, and physical map for life's terrain. It enables us to know how to respond in all circumstances—in times of joy, placidity, and pain. Religion helps us “make it through.”

Some theologians contend that, if we adopt sound religious principles when we are in our youth, then we can avoid the formation of much negative baggage. Later, as we grow into adulthood and maturity, we are better people with whom to live and work.

Life definitely has an economics component. Economics involves production, consumption, saving, and leisure decision-making. That is, our economics determine what we produce, what we consume, and, when we have surplus, how we invest our surpluses. Our economics also determines how we play.

We need an economics religion so that we avoid economic baggage: too much preoccupation with accumulating wealth; too much debt; too little saving; too little giving; too much worthless stuff in our lives; etc. Economic baggage can make us miserable, drain us of productive energy, and make us the nightmare in interpersonal relationships.

Because economics is such a critical part of life, a religion has no salt unless it has an economics component that can help us practice good economic behavior and abort the formation of bad economic baggage.

Sometimes religions are heavy on the spiritual and it may be difficult to see and interpret the economics subtext. To help you in this regard, you might consider studying economic principles independent of your religion. With your knowledge of economics, you can go back to your religious text and identify the economic principles, which are good for life, that are embedded in that text.

Without attempting to produce an economics religion here, and with no intent to be comprehensive, consider the following basic economics religion principles:

1. Be as productive as you can possibly be—ensuring, at the same time, that your life properly balances production, consumption, saving, and leisure.
2. Consume what you need, no more.
3. Given your surpluses, invest in your future and in the future of those around you in your community to ensure that you will have the support that is required during difficult periods. In other words, “Prepare for War in Times of Peace.”
4. Recognize that we all should take actions that reflect the notion that today is the last day of our lives, yet we and our posterity may live forever.

Given the correct economics religion (way of life) we can realize the just-described principles, avoid unproductive and destructive baggage, and count our lives successful.

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