

Spiritual Capital

or

Social Capital

A lot of money given to missions is designated for projects and programs designed to provide many of these things listed above to people and communities.

Sub-Saharan Africa has received the equivalent of tens of trillions of dollars in financial aid for the past several decades , yet remains for the most part, seriously lacking in these fundamental features of the infrastructural side of development.

- Is receiving aid money wrong?
- Does aid money help?
- Why don't conditions fundamentally change?

Did you ever ask the question, “What is the real problem?”

Economic Capital

- Startup Capital
- Operating Capital
- Growth Capital

Why would somebody talking about Spiritual things,
“Actualizing ones Potential”, and be talking about
Capital?

What could Capital have to do with Discipleship and strengthening churches?

I would like to introduce you to another type of Capital that is just as valuable to life as financial capital is to business.

It can provide you with lots of opportunity for engaging people in spiritual conversation about biblical teaching while talking about meeting real needs and events in everyday life.

Caring about people, commitment to service, loyalty, love, quality, and trust, are biblical principals that create value in relationships and society.

When we live our lives and carry out our work in a genuine heartfelt way that displays these attributes, it adds something to it that gives it an increased value.

People will prefer to do business with a person who can be trusted to do the right thing.

People will feel relaxed and secure when they experience honesty and service in a government office.

When people in government, in business, in everyday relationships live out these principles in their positions of influence, they generate something of value, something called Spiritual or Social Capital.

Being people of integrity, people who hold themselves accountable, people who are honest and offer hope by being loyal and trustworthy, being encouragers, being good stewards, loving others, serving others and creating order in their business and societies, are people who do things “as unto the Lord”. There is no law that forces people to behave this way for the most part, but they act in a manner that glorifies God, using their gifts and talents to do their best - regardless of the expectations of others.

Spiritual Capital Can be compared to financial capital in a very real and practical way. There is a place for Spiritual Capital in every society like a bank or credit union account.

Spiritual Capital is the faith, trust and commitment that we and others will do what is right, which means that the Spiritual Capital account can either increase or decrease based on personal experience.

Based on this comparison every person can either make deposits to or withdraw from a societies Spiritual Capital account.

The higher up in society a person is with authority and responsibility, the more potential for adding Spiritual Capital that person has.

But everybody could contribute to the societies Spiritual Capital account.

Everybody can be a positive influence for sustainable development.

Development in a sustainable form is not an object, a project, or a physical thing.

Development cannot be given to people; it cannot be bought.

Development is a state of being.

Development is a lifestyle.

Development is a way of thinking.

Many societies struggle in the area of development because their Spiritual Capital accounts are bankrupt.

The biblical values that contribute to Spiritual Capital are not being lived out in key areas of society.

Our commission as Christians is to preach the Gospel, Start Churches, Strengthen churches by making Disciples, and Disciple Makers.

And being used by God with the gifts He's given us to grow His Kingdom.

When a person's life is being transformed by the Holy Spirit, through the teaching of biblical doctrine and a correct theological perspective, they begin to think and act more and more like Jesus.

They begin to contribute Spiritual Capital to their society.

Most importantly, God is glorified in their lives.

Their lives become a testimony to their salvation.

And God can use them to draw others to Himself as they make Him Lord over every area of their lives.

Titus 2: 9-14

Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

The more we understand Spiritual Capital the more we can understand its importance.

Important to our testimony.

Important to our usefulness in God's hands.

Important to our society.

James 2: 1-13 The sin of partiality. One example.

When we favor one person in a decision over another person because of their wealth or social status, we sin against God.

We also become untrustworthy in the eyes of others because our decision making becomes situational and is not based on truth or facts.

We then withdraw Spiritual Capital from the societies account.

James 2: 1-13 The sin of partiality. One example.

When we treat people fairly, We honor God.

We become trustworthy because our actions are based on equality and unswerving godly values.

We add to the Spiritual Capital account.

A key factor, if not the most important factor is not the biblical values themselves but that they are exercised consistently, as this is the foundation of Trust. If a person is not steadfast and reliable in their behavior, people will not have faith in their behavior, which eliminates the Trust, because they lack the commitment, or consistency in their behavior. This type of inconsistent behavior does not reflect the character of God either which also will take away from their ability to be a witness on His behalf and does not contribute to a “strong” church, and most certainly undermines any believable witness in that individual’s life.

Matthew 5: 44-45, “But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the just and on the unjust”.

As we create Spiritual Capital by living out godliness in our daily lives, we become like the refreshing rain that those who live in darkness can enjoy.

John 4:13,14, Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

We can be the refreshing rain, the salt, and the light that God can use to draw people to Himself and reach the unreached by wherever and whenever as we purpose ourselves to be “Whole Life Disciples” of Jesus.

God has placed each one of us in the places He wants to use us and has given us the gifts, skills, and talents that we need in the power of the Spirit to Actualize Our Potential in service to Him. And at the same time become agents of transformation in our societies.