



# CAN Financial Institute

Session 4: October 7, 2018



**Session 4:  
Towards a Common  
Purse: from Financial  
Individualism to  
Communal  
Interdependence**

# In our first session, we shared...

## *American Dream Says...*

- *Financial matters are private*
- *Radical Individualism - Have enough wealth to not depend on others*
- *Inheritance by family and "fairness"*
- *Debt determines credit-worthiness*
- *Ownership is happiness (consumerism)*
- *Charity is good, but only out of excess*
- *"Bootstrap" attitude towards financial savviness*

## *Truly, truly we say unto you...*

- *Help is available within community*
- *Radical community - practicing interdependence will lead to communal financial freedom*
- *Kinship and expansion of "family"*
- *Character and responsibility determines credit-worthiness*
- *Joy of sharing (community)*
- *Spirit of generosity is more important than quantity of giving/receiving*
- *Gratitude of receiving generosity as driving force - leads to generosity towards others*

# In our Second Session we covered...

- A brief racialized history of America
- Economy is set up on:
  - Genocide of Indigenous peoples and theft of land
  - Slavery, and the continual oppression of African-Americans
  - Exclusion and exploitation of immigrants
- System is set up to pit POC against one another, as POC are systemically stripped of communal cultures and forced into hyper-individualism in order to serve as props for whites to be able to exclusively build wealth
- Point is that we are all victims of being pawns of the system, and we must create an alternative economy built on trust and community and character

# In our third session, we covered...

- Define creditworthiness: In the American Imperial System, creditworthiness is determined by how much debt you have and can manage.
- Credit is dependent on neverending participation in consumption and encourages larger loans - buying things you can't afford.
- This oppressive psychology of debt is normalized and individualized
- Individualism as the foundation of capitalism that causes and perpetuates the psychology of debt

# But we say unto you...

- Psychology is insufficient to access true freedom
- God is the OWNER and author of all things - our fundamental belief is that God allows us to be stewards, and we are to be faithful and responsible.
- Therefore, this is about character transformation, not getting control of your psychology or even your finances.
- Receiving is an indicative of relational centeredness, which leads to giving
- We need community and kinship (e.g., financial education, safety nets, etc), and a collectivist approach to finances, sharing/receiving, and everyday life
- Gift of the church is the language of confession, honesty, and transparency
- Spirit of Generosity is character that is defined by gratitude and differentiation

# Roadmap: What to Expect In the Series

## Session 1:

A Call to Financial Stewardship:  
Uncovering Assumptions and Principles

Sept  
9

Sept  
23

## Session 2:

Capitalism and Financial Enslavement in the  
USA: A Brief Racialized History

## Session 3:

What is Creditworthiness? Psychology of Debt vs  
Spirit of Generosity

Sept  
30

Oct  
7

## Session 4:

Towards a Common Purse:  
From Financial  
Individualism to Communal  
Interdependence

# Goals of Session 4

- Exegesis: Define the explicit and implicit underpinnings of CAN's ethos to generate the Spirit of Generosity
- Our Life Together
- Next Steps
- Discussion and Reflection



# So what does a Spirit of Generosity look like here at CAN?

- Defined by our Membership
- Family from a multicultural perspective
- Family with structure and authority defined by character and responsibility
- Natural participation and theologically intentional Life Together
- High Risk, Low Anxiety church
- Goal: Alternative Economy

# So what does a Spirit of Generosity look like here at CAN?

Staff Led Examples of past/current experiments and ministries:

- Good Samaritan Fund
- Fellowship Meals
- Community Housing
- Underground Seminary - No-debt Model
- Church Garden
- Church Cleanup Day
- Jubilee Campaign

# So what does a Spirit of Generosity look like here at CAN?

Member Led Examples of past/current experiments and ministries:

- Car transfers
- Sharing Room
- Thursday Playdates
- Meal Trains
- Rides to and from Church
- Church Decor
- Rummage Sale

# Praxis: of Spirit of Generosity

By their fruits, you shall know them...

- Do your homework!
- Ask for help for your urgent needs - make your needs known
- Participate in our Life Together
- Responsible Financial Life - budget, and create a line for generosity
- Be high risk, low anxiety
- Take more responsibility, not control
- Value gifts, see true impoverishment, and that we need each other

# Discussion

- What are next steps for you?
- What are some things that are holding you back (time availability, fear, social anxiety?)
- Learnings
- Reflections

# Reparations, Reconciliation & Christian Financial Stewardship

- What is our collective and personal responsibility in caring for each other?
- In creating a common purse that doesn't only benefit self and our blood kin, but also benefits others, especially the "poorest" and "least" among us?
- At the end of it all, in this American context, if our end goal is not reparations, our Gospel is not radical enough.

# THANK YOU



Daniel Perez



Hikari Nakane

We are grateful for this opportunity to lead this Financial Institute! Thank you for taking the time to participate, listen online, and learn with us. This is an ever developing topic with new insights and resources. Please provide us with your feedback, and also reach out to us personally if you want financial coaching, or connection to resources. Our contact information is in the bulletins!