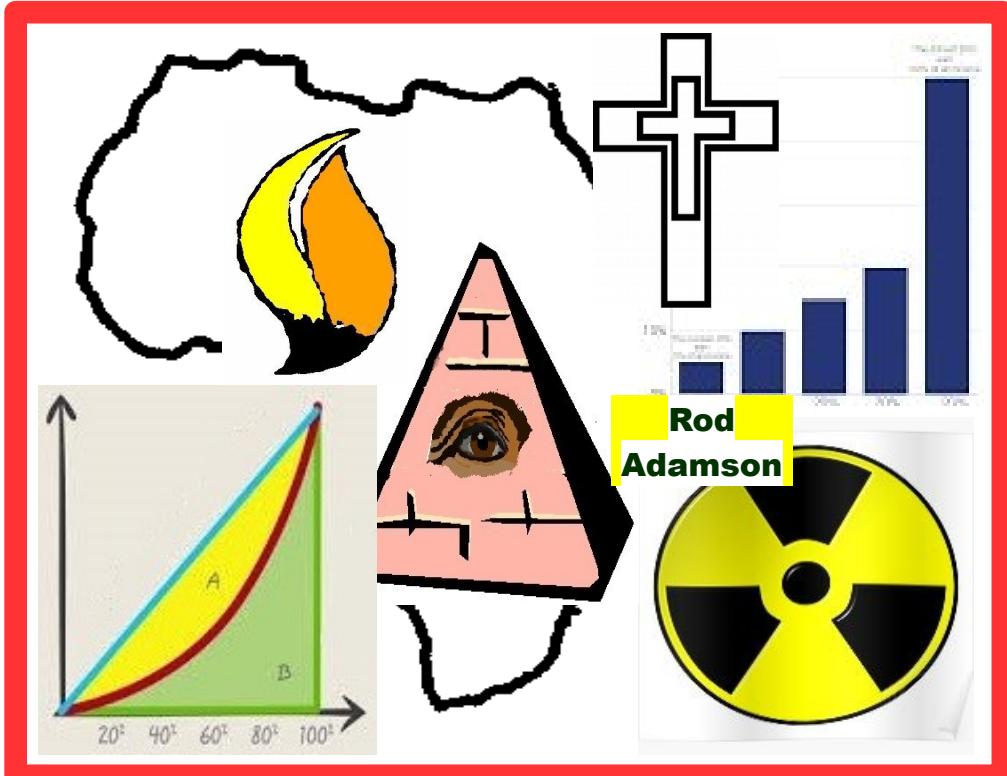


**BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP**  
**IN THE WORLD'S**  
**MOST GINI-CO-EFFICIENT**  
**UNBALANCED ECONOMY**



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# **Biblical Leadership in the World's Most Gini-Co-efficient Unbalanced Economy**

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**Mark 12:10-11**

***Surely you have read this scripture?***

***'The stone which the builders rejected as worthless turned out to be the most important of all. This was done by the Lord; what a wonderful sight it is!'***

**Philippians 2:5-11**

***The attitude you should have is the one that Christ Jesus had: He always had the nature of God, but he did not think that by force he should try to remain equal with God.***

***Instead of this, of his own free will he gave up all he had, and took the nature of a servant. He became like a human being and appeared in human likeness. He was humble and walked the path of obedience all the way to death--- his death on the cross. For this reason God raised him to the highest place above and gave him the name that is greater than any other name. And so, in honor of the name of Jesus all beings in heaven, on earth, and in the world below will fall on their knees, and all will openly proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.***

## 1. CHURCH LEADERSHIP AND GINI CO- EFFICIENT PYRAMIDS

Bill Gates, information technology pharaoh role-changing as donor philanthropist, released a futurology opinion through the annual letter published by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in January 2014: “Poor countries are not doomed to stay poor,” he said. “I am optimistic enough to make a prediction. By 2035, there will be almost no poor countries left.” (1)

This concided with the January 2014 Davos World Economic Forum meeting of pyramid peak global-political and global-corporate business leaders, who had been taken to task by OXFAM, the international aid organisation fighting poverty. Oxfam had released the report “Working for the Few” - critical of World Economic Forum integrity in the struggle against poverty and suggesting Oxfam’s 6 point plan for greater corporate business integrity. “The rich elite are manipulating the rules in the economic world and in consequence are creating a world in which the prosperity of the 85 richest people is same as that of half the world population.”

(2)

The opinion contrast is so stark, the reduction in poverty according to the optimistic and often utopian claims of pyramid peak elite so obviously not occurring, that quotes from the SACC, World Vision and others abound: “The world over, we have the capacity to make poverty history, yet we are not doing it. In South Africa, the sin is double. Why?” (3)

In our world increasingly divided and over-lorded by the prosperity accumulations of the pyramid peak elite and the rich, gospel leadership is challenged by Isaiah 61.1-2/ Luke 4.18-19: “*The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*” Jesus knew this divide in the world as Roman imperialism, and fulfilled prophecy in preaching gospel response. Economists talk of the divide in terms of the Gini Co-efficient.

### 1.1 Gini Co-efficient: Measure of Pyramidisation of an Economy

Lorenz Curve/Gini-Coefficient calculations give a measure of the relationship between the wealthiest, average and poorest citizens of a

society, and are usually written of in economic academics as the measure of inequality in an economy in order to be without prejudice to rich or poor. However, a high measure of inequality prolonged over generations also measures negative pyramidisation of an economy when poverty is not just endemic, but symptomatic of an oppressive economic system. Economists who dispute such understanding by 'classical competitive capitalist' logic tend to gloss over high levels of economic pyramidisation as also reflecting high levels of unequal opportunity. This is to use deceitfully capitalist competition as the 'rise of the competitive and the sinking of the uncompetitive'. (4)

## **1.2 The World's most Gini-Co-efficient Unbalanced Economy**

South Africa is known in economics as among the nations with the world's highest Gini Co-Efficients (Namibia, Angola in southern Africa and some of SA's Brics partners have disputably higher comparable Gini-Co-Efficients). What makes SA the world's most Gini-Co-Efficient unbalanced country?

- SA sits on the world's largest mineral wealth deposits (Citigroup 2010 est. \$2.5 trillion as against the next \$1.5 trillion). The most profitable utilisation of these has been by global super-capitalist pyramid business, with so-called trickle-down 'break cycles of local poverty' being platitude more than social contract.
- Apartheid was the slogan symbolism of a colonial, racist and now neo-colonial business pyramid supremacy that was and is the one 'unchallenge-able, consistent endurance' in it's co-opting of whatever political system held sway. The original Cape Colony was inherently racist and even slaving as a pyramid supremacy but still an extension of the global pyramid: British seizure of the Cape in 1807 by anti-Napoleonic action just changed the foreign global pyramid overlord. The pyramid became local with the Kimberley and Johannesburg phases of entering the multi-trillion mineral deposits. Persons, individual or legalistic, who owned and drove the economic power of the deposits steered much of the 'change' from Boer republics/British colonies into Union, (including South Africa's own 'colonial' phase establishing Rhodesia and Namibia and steering much of modern Zambia, Malawi and SADCC country economic entry into globalisation). They steered much of the 'change' into Apartheid Afrikaner nationalist republic; and are

again steering much of the 'change' or transformation in the ubuntu Mandela legacy African Nationalist republic. Through all of this 'change', one factor holds sure: South Africa's Gini Co-efficient remains consistently unbalanced as among the world's highest as the 'unchallengeable, consistent endurance' business pyramid supremacy goes on. (Nations like Chile went through similar colonial, localising and freedom phases, yet managed down their Gini Co-Efficient into more acceptable and less oppressive balance). (5)

- The 1986/87 Kairos Document wrote of then Apartheid governance as "**The god of the South African State is not merely an idol or false god, it is the devil disguised as Almighty God – the antichrist.**" and "**This is our KAIROS. The structural inequality (political, social and economic) expressed in discriminatory laws, institutions and practices has led the people of South Africa into a virtual civil war and rebellion against tyranny.**" Apartheid has now fallen, but Gini-Co-efficient imbalance stayed. (6)
- SA civil unrest remains consistently in place from Zulu War to Boer War, Gandhi, Bambata and the 1920 and 1922 Miners' strike, 1948 National Party, 1960 Sharpeville, 1976 Soweto riots, 1990-1994 transition violence, and to the 2013 Marikana, other 'service delivery', the 2015-2016 'State-Owned Enterprises', SASSA, and student '#feesmustfall' unrests which now target the ANC-business pyramid supremacy partnership.
- Why shouldn't Arms Deal/Nkandla/'service delivery', '#feesmustfall', 'State-Owned Enterprises', 'Nenegate-Junk Status Zuma' issues indicate co-option of political power persons by political-business pyramid supremacy now gone BEE? Why shouldn't Competition Tribunal findings and huge fines on global super-capitalist conglomerate cartels in Construction, Banks, Bread, Cooking Oil-Margarine, and other industries indicate pyramidised business's complete disregard for any social contract within the spirit of common humanity?

### **1.3 South Africa, Gini Co-efficient and Common Humanity**

Secular social necessity, 'in the spirit of common humanity', for development out of under-development in the econo-political sphere of human rights, is the claimed social contract of pyramid-peak elitism. The Bill Gates quote above shows this. Awareness of this in current

'ubuntu' South African Governance and Business is also as evident. The ANC government has its Freedom Charter legacy. In attempting 'think-tank' development of that, it hosted superstar economist Prof Thomas Piketty at its 3 October 2015 13<sup>th</sup> Nelson Mandela Lecture. Piketty's book Capital in the Twenty-First Century is one opinion in the debate over the relationship between inequality, development and growth – he advocated a tax-based redistribution. Another is Prof Angus Deaton in his 2013 book The Great Escape: health, wealth and the origins of inequality. In South Africa, businessman Johann Rupert had given his own opinion at a Remgro AGM in November 2014, reported under the headline "Inequality is making the world ill, says Rupert". He responded to Piketty's address: "**Governments worldwide haven't really been as effective in using capital as the private sector has.**" The debate is multi-opinioned, across the generation gap. The South African anxiety is perhaps captured by Piketty: "...we know from historical experience that if inequality is not addressed through peaceful means and peaceful democratic institutions it's always potentially a source of violence." Despite it's 'ubuntu rainbow' phase with a more egalitarian view of '**a person is a person through others**', the sense of South Africa returning to violence is increasing again, unfortunately. The December 2015 'Nenegate'- 1 April 2017 'Zuma Junk Status' finance minister debacles, ad agency promoted as 'radical economic transformation in the face of white monopoly capitalism', but which one commentator called 'radical economic destruction' due to the 'looting' tendency of the dominant factional leadership, has again raised the spectre of the pyramid peak faction coercing underdevelopment on an unwilling South Africa by forceful intimidation. How Church leaders will respond effectively is as unclear as in Zimbabwe.

(7)

Simply, South Africa is not blessed when it is one of those nations whose wealth and income is of the most unequally pyramidised in the world. Gini co-efficient measurement confirms that South Africa has an economy acutely pyramidised, in the wider Gauteng and Cape Town metropolitan areas, and there in turn, in the acutely pyramidised corporate structures of the globalised mega-corporations of super-capitalism, or of State-Owned Enterprises. The competitive enterprise so positively embraced in Adam Smith's "Wealth of Nations", the academic foundation of capitalism, has been evolved in South Africa into the undemocratic negative of a continuous 'super-capital/super-

state nobility' (old and new SA) which overlords the South African economy and majority despite political change. Boer War or Great Depression, Apartheid or 1994 Ubuntu political changes have come and gone yet South Africa's Gini-Co-Efficient imbalance remains entrenched and proves the well known South African saying: "**The more things change, the more they stay the same.**"

#### **1.4 Church and Gini Co-efficient Imbalance – Church Struggle continues...**

An opinion of internal church denominational life presented here is that it is no different in South African churches, with the pyramid-peak elite's influence even overlording discipleship and leadership of the Church of Jesus Christ. This seminar's reference church denomination, the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa (UPCSA), is not structured for a 'balancing re-distribution' (which should be it's moral high ground), of its income by assessments (it's micro-economy is understandably so small that 'assessment action' would have negligible effect nationally), but rather for perpetuating economic imbalance even theologically, and along with it reducing opportunity for ministries in underdeveloped areas to have positive growth. The oversight guide of '*rationalise financially unviable ministries for redeployment of resources where opportunity for financial viability is better*', is inadequate in our so 'acutely pyramidised and unequal opportunity economy' of South Africa. Gaining positive growth from inadequate resources in underdeveloped areas requires specialised leadership discernment, which Presbyterian training and history have not helped to develop, rather the opposite. Presbyterian training assumes normality in the pyramidisation of the South African economy and the Church's micro-economy, automatically relegating ministers in underachieving ministries to highly stressful double burden – greatly reduced opportunity for ministry success, and unwarranted lower self-esteem of the minister or ministers, elders' leadership, and congregation.

A majority of Church (Presbyterian) ministers serve Jesus Christ in 'underachieving' ministries in the township, inner city or demographic change zones. Many also wrongly accept self-doubt and low self-esteem about their ministry when ministries of other colleagues in ministries to 'pyramid peak' mega-churches seem to surge ahead in

progress, in particular financially. Their stress of 'compounding income shortfall not meeting compounding expenditure' as backlog grows on stipend, payments of assessment, and worse, is met with a 'trickle down' policy if any, for real reduction in expenditure on growth and extension programmes is probably occurring. Yet underachieving ministries MAY NOT BE BECAUSE OF LESS SUCCESSFUL MINISTRY. The effect of one's ministry under Gini Co-efficient imbalance in the world's most Gini Co-efficient unbalanced society needs careful new movement of the Spirit in fresh gospel discernment. Denominational training paradigms have not equipped ministers in this regard.

**Prayer Task:** Pray asking God for gospel help through divisions in SA, especially economic imbalances, and for ministries in under-developed areas.

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