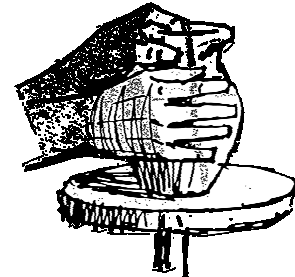


# His Workmanship: Westside

*"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works."  
—Ephesians 2:10*



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Isaiah 64:8

## Leaders Must Be Approachable, by Rick Liggio

[The Westside church may appoint new elders soon, and the church is praying about God's plans for church leaders.]

The New Testament teaches that those who serve as elders in local churches must be *"able/apt to teach,"* 1 Tim 3:2, and this ability involves much more than just directing a class discussion of a Bible topic. Elders must be so able to teach that they can hold fast the faithful word, exhort in sound doctrine, and even refute those who contradict, Tit 1:9; they are men who can *"feed the flock,"* be examples, 1 Pet 5:2-3, and equip saints for the work of service, Eph 4:11-12. The terms suggest that shepherds are not only seasoned Bible students, but also seasoned Bible teachers. Basically, that's what elders are: teachers, men who use the Word of God to lead, guide, and direct the souls that are under their charge, 1 Pet 5:2-4. The Lord's church would be much better off if elders concentrated more on their teaching work.

**Communication: send and receive.** Of course, it should be evident that "teaching" and "exhorting" are both forms of communication—very specialized and highly skilled forms of communication. A person will never be able to teach and exhort if he does not first learn to communicate. Consequently, good communication skills are essential to good leadership, and that is especial-

ly so for those who shepherd local churches. But remember that communication is not just about speaking. Effective communication is always a two-way street: it requires both sending and receiving. To be a really effective communicator, a person must do more than just learn how to speak. He must also learn how to listen. In fact, as Stephen Covey puts it, an effective leader will seek first to understand and then to be understood. This is a Biblical principle, cf. Jas 1:19; Pr 18:13.

**Approachable leaders.** For a leader to communicate effectively, he must give the sense that he is willing to listen and listen with a view to understanding what is being said. People must feel that they can come to him with their problems and get a fair hearing, that he is willing to be a trustworthy *"confidant"* to them—someone they can turn to and rely on when they need help and understanding. Being a *"confidant"* is one of the great skills of our God. Better than any other, He know how to listen and care about our troubles; that is why we are to cast our cares on Him, 1 Pet 5:7; 1 Jn 1:9. God is a great leader!

Parents are supposed to be the ones children go to for advice and help in times of trouble. Elders are who members of the body should call on when

they are spiritually weak, Jas 5:14-15. In fact, all of us are supposed to be people to whom others can confess their faults, Jas 5:16. This requires us to be approachable people—especially if we are going to be leaders!

James tells us that being *"reasonable"* (NASB) is something that characterizes *"wisdom from above,"* Jas 3:17. *"Reasonable"* can also be translated *"willing to yield"* (NKJV) or *"easy to be entreated"* (ASV; KJV). It carries the idea of being *"persuadable."* There are some people about whom others feel it would be useless, futile to go to them with a problem: *"I could never go to that guy about this! He would never understand, and he would never see my side!"* But one whose wisdom comes from above will not be so unreasonable. A truly wise man will be seen by others as one whom they can go to, talk with, and get a fair hearing.

Are you an approachable person? Do your children feel that they can comfortably approach you with their problems, questions, or even disagreements? Do the members of the body that you oversee feel that they are able to speak with you? Can the whole eldership be approached? Do people, in general, see you as the person they can come to with their difficulties, questions, or criticisms? Most of us feel that we are approachable and easily entreated, but

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#### **Pope's Leftist Agenda, from p. 4**

Marx's enormous mistake in predicting that capitalism would reorganize production until workers possessed only their own labor, which they would be forced to exchange for miserable wages—all social classes would become workers, and all means of production would be in the hands of a few capitalists. But Marx was wrong.

Hausmann continues: "We now know that as the ink was drying on the Communist Manifesto, wages in Europe and the US were beginning a 160-year-long rise, making workers part of the middle class, with cars, mortgages, pensions, and petty bourgeois concerns. Politicians today promise to create jobs—or more opportunities to be exploited by capital—not to take over the means of production.

**Increase in productivity.** "Capitalism could achieve this transformation because the reorganization of production allowed for an unprecedented increase in productivity. Division of labor within and across firms, which Adam Smith had already envisioned in 1776 as the engine of growth, allowed for a division of knowhow among individuals that permitted the whole to know more than the parts and form ever-growing networks of exchange and collaboration.

"A modern corporation has experts in production, design, marketing, sales, finance, accounting, human resources, logistics, taxes, contracts, and so on. Modern production is not just an accumulation of buildings and equipment owned by *Das Kapital* and operated mechanically by fungible workers. Instead, it is a coordinated network of people that possess different types of Das Human-Kapital. In the developed world, capitalism did transform almost everyone into a wage laborer, but it also lifted them out of poverty and made them more prosperous than Marx could have imagined. "That was not the only thing Marx got wrong...measures of wellbeing are strongly related to the proportion of the labor force employed in capitalist production. In Mexico's state of Nuevo León, two-thirds of workers are employed by private incorporated businesses, while in Chiapas only one in seven is. No wonder, then, that per capita income is more than nine times higher in Nuevo León than in Chiapas. In Co-

lombia, per capita income in Bogota is four times higher than in Maicao. Unsurprisingly, the share of capitalist employment is six times higher in Bogota.

"In poverty-stricken Bolivia, Francis criticized 'the mentality of profit at any price, with no concern for social exclusion or the destruction of nature,' along with 'a crude and naive' trust in the goodness of those wielding economic power and in the sacralized workings of the prevailing economic system.' But this explanation of capitalism's failure is wide of the mark. The world's most profitable companies are not exploiting Bolivia. They are simply not there, because they find the place unprofitable. The developing world's fundamental problem is that capitalism has not reorganized production and employment in the poorest countries and regions, leaving the bulk of the labor force outside its scope of operation.

"As Rafael Di Tella and Robert MacCulloch have shown, the world's poorest countries are not characterized by naive trust in capitalism, but by utter distrust, which leads to heavy government intervention and regulation of business. Under such conditions, capitalism does not thrive and economies remain poor." Read more at [www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/does-capitalism-cause-poverty-by-ricardo-hausmann-2015](http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/does-capitalism-cause-poverty-by-ricardo-hausmann-2015) The Pope's faith in government control is completely without evidence. The problem is not unbridled capitalism, but wrongful bridling by government. Poverty stalks the lands farthest removed from capitalism. When nations embrace the free market, they experience rising standards of living. It isn't like this is some hidden secret based on obscure statistics. It is simply history's record.

Many people, the Pope included, act as if poverty has to be explained. If some people are poor, they must have been robbed. So we can assume the nearest rich people must have hauled off all their stuff. Robbery does happen through corruption in politics and banking, but that isn't real capitalism. The fact is that, in general, poverty is the natural condition of humanity. Poverty doesn't need to be explained; prosperity is the incredible thing that requires an explanation. The legal order of

freedom along with the cultural value of honest work and respect for the ownership of property is that explanation. If the Pope wants to see less poverty, he should start rebuking theft and envy rather than making up complaints to justify those vices as virtues. The Pope's message has consistently been to transfer wealth (rob from the rich) and put trees and animals at the top of the list of concerns for Christians.

Certainly, responsible Christians have a duty to manage the environment, Gen 1:28; 9:1, but Pope Francis's speeches tend toward the airy view that humans are somehow capable of destroying the earth by simply using natural resources to provide energy, goods, and commerce—all things that make modern life so much more tolerable than life in the Middle Ages.

The poor "suffer unjustly from the abuse of the environment," the pope said on his visit to the US, even implying that "a true 'right of the environment' does exist" as a human right because human beings are a part of the environment. But the pope wasn't talking so much about things like air, water, or food quality as he was about the fact that "a selfish and boundless thirst for power and material prosperity leads both to the misuse of available natural resources and to the exclusion of the weak and disadvantaged, either because they are differently abled, or because they lack adequate information and technical expertise, or are incapable of decisive political action." In other words, he's concerned that some people are able to get wealthy, while some people are in poverty. He mistakenly believes that resources are finite and must be split among all people. Here are his mistakes of fact and logic:

1. First, even the poorest people in the United States are usually better off than the average person in any of the scores of Marxist countries that the Pope doesn't criticize (such as his recent hosts in Cuba).

2. The poor are not poor just because  
*continued on p. 3*



Psalm 133:1

**God makes my heart clean in 2015** “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.” —Ps 51:10

**Pope’s Leftist Agenda**, from p. 2  
someone drilled for oil to make the gasoline that runs our cars. They’re poor because they have no jobs or business to work at. For lack of business and work, we should look to the very government behavior the pope is advocating, governments with planned economies that rely on collectivism and discourage individual creativity and risk-taking. The types of regulations that the pope and other statisticians advocate only benefit big, corporate interests, because it’s the small businesses that can’t absorb the costs of government regulation and wind up shutting down. Whenever government stays out of business’s way, the poor have benefited, and wealth has flowed even to the most disadvantaged corners of society.

Francis, and others, look at the poverty produced by unemployment, and they blame greed, when what they should do is look in the mirror and see the real culprit in creating mass poverty: government intervention in free markets by busybodies who should stay out of other people’s affairs.

The parable of the talents tells of three servants who are given charge of their master’s money while he’s out of town, Mt 25:14-30. One servant is given five talents (gold coins), one gets two, and one gets one. The first two servants invest wisely and double the master’s money; the lord rewards them with positions of more responsibility and resources. The other servant buries the one talent and does nothing with it, and the angry master takes even that one talent from him and gives it to

## Discipleship Here At Home

another, productive servant.

What the pope and other statisticians are advocating, if we continue in the vein of the parable, is to take additional money earned by the first two hard-working servants and distribute it to the lazy servant so that they all have the same amount regardless of their own efforts, on the theory that the first two really made their money by abusing the lazy servant in the first place. The master who owns the money gets cut out entirely, and his good servants never see any reward, while the lazy servant gets everything for nothing and winds up demanding more.

In other words, the pope is touring the country preaching from not just a non-Biblical, but an anti-Biblical philosophy based in a purely mechanistic and demonstrably wrong worldview that has human misery as its aim. And that’s enough reason not to listen to him.

**Approachable Leader**, from p. 1  
do others see us that way? “Sure, my kids know that they can come to me.” Do they really? “Sure, the members here know they can talk to the elders.” Do they? “Sure they do! We tell them that all the time! And if they don’t, that’s not our fault! You can’t force folks to come to you with their problems or disagreements.” But is it really their fault? Perhaps. Some, no matter who you are or what you try to be, don’t have the confidence, will, or courage to go to elders or parents. But leaders must make sure that the problem is not them. Most folks will confide in someone who listens and is reasonable, easily entreated. As leaders, you must build such qualities and exemplify them openly for all to see—so that they will know you are the person they can comfortably confide in for a reasonable hearing. People must know that you have a reputation for careful listening and understanding before you respond. If you speak before you think or hear, people will not approach you. You must also be able to speak to others without getting upset, feeling hurt or threatened. Some

### PRAY FOR healing, protection, help

- **Samantha Harrod**—pneumonia; virus
- **Orchid Cox**—chronic blood clot condition; current clot in lung is dissolving with meds
- **Sandra Perry**—diabetes complications; on oxygen; port for dialysis inserted last week
- **Tracy Corray**—broken bone in foot; boot
- **Judy Sartin**—hairline fracture in left foot; ortho shoe
- **Judy Strand**—broken arm, post-surgery pain
- **Sheryle McNeill**—pinched nerve
- **Ernesto Gonzalez’s father Fidencio**—stage IV lymphoma, has started chemo
- **Linda Szymanski’s mother**, age 88—fall, broke ankle, rehab post surgery
- **Letha Fink’s brother Kenneth Morrison** of GA—liver disease, recent diagnosis of neuro-muscular disease
- **Danny Dodd**, formerly of Westside—improving;
- **Kaylee Chavez**—age 10, cancer; has rallied well; treatments at St. Jude’s in Memphis through Nov
- **Bill Dennis**—home recovery following rehab
- **Larry Campbell’s FL partner Terry Hargadine’s wife Michelle**—cancerous lymph nodes removed, latest scan shows improvement; picc line inserted for chemo
- **Kayla Knighten, Christine Adams’s daughter**, needs our prayers; **Judy Strand** requests prayer for her son **Joe**; pray **Ed’s son Rodney Schulz** and **Sheryle’s daughter Tiffany** receive the gospel; pray **Jeff** and **Pat’s son Mike** and grandson **Drew** return to God.
- **Sandra Perry’s son-in-law Donald Redden**—in St. Mary’s in Grand Junction; dialysis; leg not yet amputated from diabetes complications
- **Sylvia Chapman, Brett’s grandmother**—third stage pancreatic cancer; Brett’s grandmother **Sue**, and Aunt **Bonnie Doss**—cancer returned
- **Brittany Tope’s mother**—breast cancer, improving; grandmother—on dialysis

**Travel** The **Corrays** are in Mexico this week with **Jordan’s mother**. **Gary Boyd** is in China for three weeks.

**Directory Update** Please welcome **Scott** and **Amanda McClelland**, who have joined themselves with the disciples here (Ax 9:26): 3404 Wabash St Denver 80238; **Scott’s** cell: 720-254-9664 **Amanda’s** cell: 512-423-9654 [scotty\\_mec@yahoo.com](mailto:scotty_mec@yahoo.com)

are afraid to talk (especially about disagreements) for fear that you will get angry or feel hurt. If you find yourself bristling, hurt, or pouting when others disagree with you or question your judgment, then don’t be surprised when folks don’t want to approach you. Instead, make a deliberate decision to develop approachability. Your family and church need you to be easily entreated.



## Exposing current trends Leftist religion To the Pope: Capitalism, not Leftism, Destroys Poverty

by Tad Cronn and Mark Horne

Pope Francis last week used his office to promote a Leftist anti-capitalist agenda. He uses the poor continually as a prop in his speeches, a la "do this because the poor are suffering." He is pushing the same tired leftist rhetoric about economic equality, social justice, and environmental welfare that you can get from your run-of-the-mill Marxist college professor. He pushes climate scams and prefers input from pantheists to that of skeptical climate scientists. Apparently, he hates cultures of freedom, trade, entrepreneurship, and private charity. He prefers societies dominated by corrupt and totalitarian governments. He is an ambassador for turning the few islands of prosperity left on the planet into the same continents of poverty we find in the Third World.

Last summer he went on a tirade: "Do we realize something is wrong when the soil, water, air and living creatures of our world are under constant threat? ...you have mentioned the many forms of exclusion and injustice which you experience...there is an invisible thread joining every one of the forms of exclusion. These are not isolated issues. Can we recognize that invisible thread which links them? I wonder whether we can see that those destructive realities are part of a system which has become global. Do we realize that that system has imposed the mentality of profit at any price, with no concern for social exclusion or the destruction of nature? ...This system is by now intolerable; farm workers find it intolerable, laborers find it intolerable, communities find it intolerable, peoples find it intolerable. The earth itself—our sister, Mother Earth, as Saint Francis would say—also finds it intolerable." It is a moral obligation, he said, to work "for a just distribution of the fruits of the earth and human labor," what he called a "communitarian economy" (read communist in place of communitarian) as community organizers. He railed against businesses, financial institutions (lenders), and free trade. Then he described the hope and change needed to fight large corporations and global warming. Sound familiar? He said that the future of humanity lies "in the hands of peoples and in their ability to organize." Perhaps our most important task, he says, is to defend Mother Earth. He concludes in the typical liberal mantra waffle, "If you are unable to pray, I ask you to send me your good thoughts and energy."

Some of us, Pope Francis, think your lies are intolerable.

Ricardo Hausmann, a Harvard professor, wrote a reply to the Pope that is helpful. "But are the problems that upset Francis the consequence of what he called 'unbridled capitalism'? Or are they instead caused by capitalism's surprising failure to do what was expected of it? Should an agenda to advance social justice be based on bridling capitalism or on eliminating the barriers that thwart its expansion? The answer in Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia is obviously the latter." Hausmann points out Karl

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### Pastors

Larry Campbell (303) 246-8810  
DeWayne Howell (303) 973-7283

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<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Westside-Church-of-Christ/276475819148309>

## Assembly Schedule

### Sunday

Bible classes	9:00 am
Morning assembly	10:00 am
Afternoon assembly	1:30 pm

### Wednesday

Bible classes	7:30 pm
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### Sunday morning

- **adult Bible class**, A Life-Changing Encounter with Christ from "The Gospel According to John," Jonathan Hadders

- **sermon**, "Qualifications for Pastors," Jim Reingrover

### Sunday afternoon

- teaching on Romans 12, Westin Cox

New adult class, "The Power of Faith," will begin this Wednesday night for the fourth quarter of 2015.