

4-2021

The Cedarville Statement on Free Markets

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The background is a dark blue gradient with a subtle pattern of white dots. Overlaid on the left side are several concentric circles and a large arc with a scale. The scale has markings from 140 to 260 in increments of 10. There are also several smaller circles and arcs, some with arrows indicating a clockwise direction.

THE CEDARVILLE STATEMENT ON FREE MARKETS

JEFF HAYMOND

ASSOCIATION OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISE EDUCATION

APRIL 2021

ARTICLE ONE

We affirm that God created all humans *Imago Dei*, and therefore have creative gifts that can be used to serve others according to God's calling

We deny that humans are the result of random processes of evolution and therefore unworthy of special dignity

ARTICLE TWO

We affirm that individuals are corrupted by the Fall, and have a self--focus which may lead some to exploit others if institutions and incentives do not constrain them

We deny that individual manifestations of sinful behavior are primarily the result of the structure of social institutions and could be eliminated under the right structures

ARTICLE THREE

We affirm that humans are fundamentally finite and dependent beings having limited knowledge, and this limitation is due to the creator/creature distinction and not the Fall

We deny that the dispersed knowledge of each individual can be successfully aggregated to give a central planner the capacity to direct the economy

ARTICLE FOUR

We affirm that even in a fallen world, market-based economic institutions provide incentives to guide individuals to serve one another

We deny that we can create any utopian economic system that prevents the outworking of sin

ARTICLE FIVE

We affirm that the fundamental economic problem is to creatively use scarce resources to produce valued goods and services

We deny that the distribution of goods and services is a central economic concern

ARTICLE SIX

We affirm that God's sovereign plan generally has an expansive view of individual freedom to enable us to "choose this day" whom we will serve

We deny that poor choices by some are rationale to regulate the choices of all

ARTICLE SEVEN

We affirm that God intends for social cooperation to lead to human flourishing

We deny that the benefits God intends from this social cooperation can be coerced or directed by the state

ARTICLE EIGHT

We affirm that voluntary social cooperation creates more value than when individuals produce alone

We deny that self-sufficiency is either good economics or good theology

ARTICLE NINE

We affirm that God is the giver of all gifts, and He distributes those gifts to allow for individual and social flourishing, leading to His glory and our benefit

We deny that governments have the right to restrict or redirect the use of God's gifts away from God's calling on the individual recipient of that gift, apart from the state's legitimate role of protection of God-given human rights.

ARTICLE TEN

We affirm that property is a good gift from God, and intended by God to grow us into Godly stewards

We deny that the state has unlimited claims to private property in pursuing the common interest.

ARTICLE ELEVEN

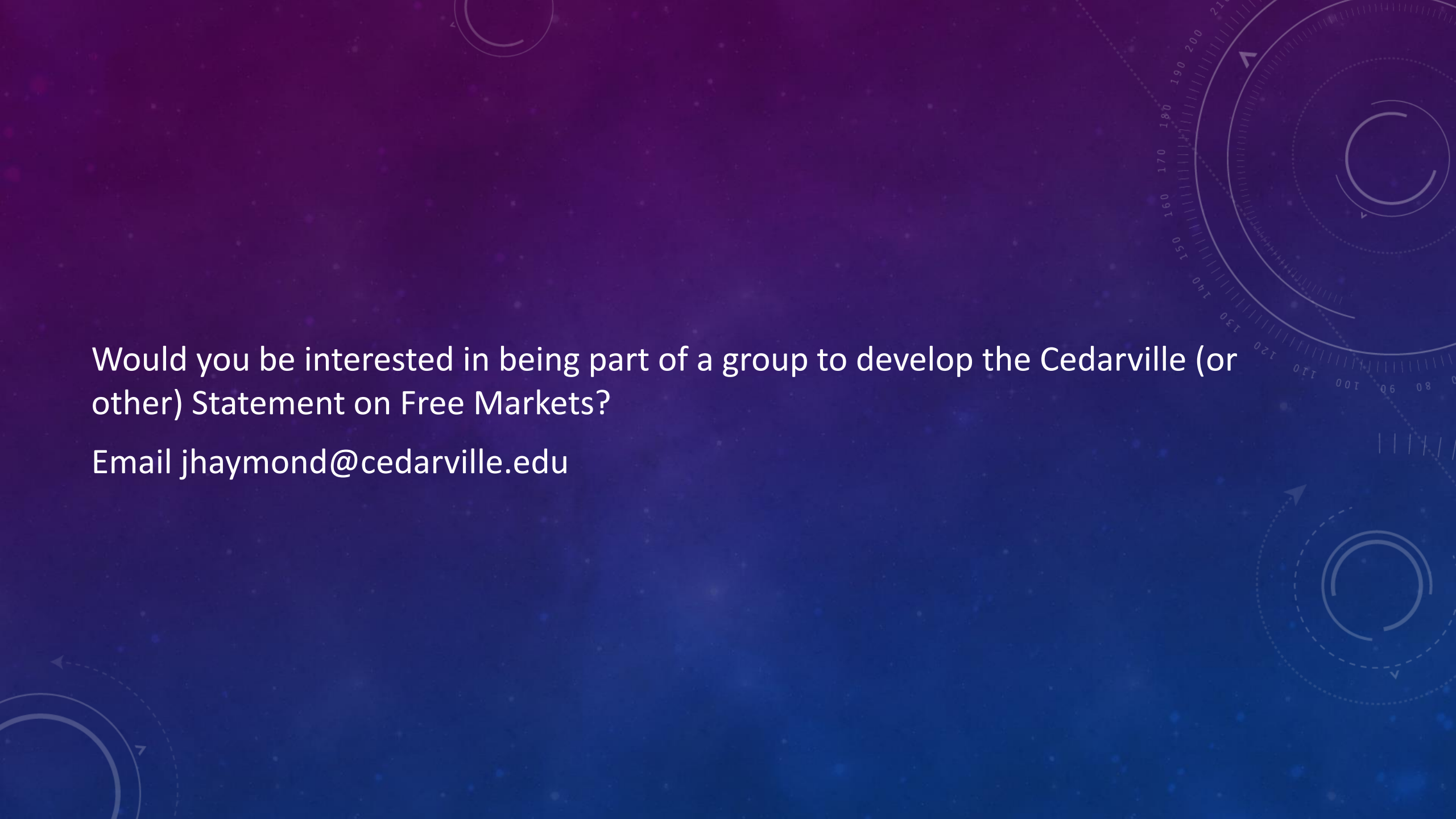
We affirm the state has the legitimate right to raise taxes to fund biblical-mandated functions of government, e.g., the bearer of the sword.

We deny that the state has a legitimate right to collect taxes for functions that dishonor God

ARTICLE TWELVE

We affirm that some economic arrangements are more in alignment with biblical principles than other systems

We deny that economic systems are outside the will of God, i.e., that any economic system is equally consistent with a biblical worldview



Would you be interested in being part of a group to develop the Cedarville (or other) Statement on Free Markets?

Email jhaymond@cedarville.edu