

In the World, But Not of the World: The Problems of Corruption and Broken Economies

Jesus called his disciples to be the salt and light of the earth, but does that include the political and administrative sphere? Politicians and public administrators can tend to become corrupted, especially in broken economies with legacies of atheism and communism. Kleptocracy and cronyism seem to be the norm rather than the exception. But were the Egyptian, Babylonian and Roman Empires any less corrupt in the times of Joseph, Daniel and the saints in Caesar's household? If God called them to minister in those harsh and corrupt realities, surely He must have a plan for the 21st century Christian leaders of Europe! In his talk, Sebastian Vaduva will outline the intrinsic problems of corruption within the context of post-Soviet Eastern Europe and the secular European Union. Based upon his experience and research he will attempt to provide practical, biblical solutions on how Christian leaders can be salt and light in Europe.

Sebastian Vaduva currently serves as Dean of the Griffiths School of Management within Emanuel University of Oradea, Romania. He was born and raised in Romania, but in the spring of 1989 immigrated to the US with his whole family. In the US he enjoyed a successful career in entrepreneurship, academia, and the NGO sector. In 2003 he completed his first PhD in the area of comparative entrepreneurial systems between the US and Romania. In 2004 he was selected as a Fulbright scholar for the nation of Moldova where he worked as an MBA program director. In 2005 he returned to Romania permanently and besides being Dean of the Griffiths School of Management he is a serial entrepreneur with seven started companies and a corporate trainer/consultant for multinational corporations present in Romania. Additionally, Sebastian is involved in politics and public administration holding a second PhD from the National School of Politics and Public Administration. He has consulted a number of public leaders on the subject of economic development, FDI attraction, job creation, etc. In 2014 he joined the board of Transparency International Romania in an effort to educate the Romanian public on the perils of corruption and the benefits and possibilities of a healthy business environment. He is married with Lois and together they have a daughter Evelina Delia.

I. The Expectations Placed upon Governments: Politicians and Public Administrators

A. The quest for economic growth and the delivery of public goods: capitalism, socialism and communism

B. The inherent problems of corruption

II. The Historical Relation between Christianity and Government: Collaboration and Persecution

A. The Catholic perspective

B. The Orthodox perspective

C. The Protestant perspective

III. The Biblical Models of Ministering in Government

A. Joseph - the emergency consultant

B. Daniel - the quintessential technocrat

C. Nehemiah - ambassador plenipotentiary

D. St. Paul - the outspoken dissident

IV. Ministering in Government for the 21st Century

A. Economic growth - FDI attraction and the power of an honest network

B. The importance of education and talent development

C. Social ministry: going where are no one else wants to go

Suggested Readings:

Amazing Grace: William Wilberforce and the Heroic Campaign to End Slavery (2007) by Eric Metaxas.

Reinventing Government (1993) by David Osborne.

Government Failure (2002) by G. Tullock, A. Seldon, G. Brady.

“Creating Shared Value and Rethinking Capitalism” (2011) by Michael Porter and Mark Kramer, *Harvard Business Review*.

From Corruption to Modernity: The Evolution of Romania's Entrepreneurial Culture (2016) by Sebastian Vaduva