

Are we really dead??

*“The one who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars says this:
‘I know your works, that you have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead.’”*
Revelations 3:1

This line fits us more than we can imagine. We have just celebrated the 25th anniversary of the martyrdom of the Jesuits and their 2 colleagues at the UCA in San Salvador. In relation to that celebration, I read a statement from one of Ignacio Ellacuría’s last talks that brought those words from Revelations straight home to me:

“From my point of view – and this may be simultaneously somewhat prophetic and paradoxical – the United States is in a much worse situation than Latin America. Because the United States has a solution, but, in my opinion, it is a bad solution, both for them and for the world in general.

What is that solution? The capitalist market system we live in and the democracy that governs it (and vice versa).

Why is that a **bad solution** both for us and for the world in general?

Ellacuría’s reply:

It can’t be universalized and so is not a solution for the whole human family. It is therefore immoral.

It can’t be universalized because there aren’t enough resources on this planet for everyone to live as the U.S., the European Union, or even the Asian Tigers do.

This then requires tragic choices about who will live and who will die – especially what percentage of the population living in poverty is going to survive.

Who will make those decisions if they’re not to be left to the heartlessness of the market?

And let me add:

The way those resources are being exploited now is changing the global climate in dangerous, destructive ways.

The system is clearly functioning to make the rich richer, the middle class and the poor poorer – the statistics are there for those willing to look honestly.

The politicians whose policies will make the life and death decisions Ellacuría referred to are indentured to the wealthy who finance their campaigns.

More and more people realize that this assessment is not only prophetic and paradoxical, it is disturbingly true. More and more students know that the current societal *status quo* does not promise them a future. Meanwhile our politicians and media preach the gospel of economic growth through consumption.

'I know your works, that you have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead.'”

More and more of us need to stand up and say this out loud. But can we find real life? What are the emerging alternatives to this system? Are we teaching and studying them?

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