

1. Can I be a Christian **and in business**?

It seems a simplistic question with a 'yes' as a resounding answer. We must however remember from church history that it was the **institutionalizing of the clergy** (*sacred calling* verses *secular vocation* division) and the **exclusion of the laity** from the spiritual call and work of God under Constantine that plunged the church into the dark ages.

Therefore as the body of Christ in all its *multi colored grace* we are called to the '**Caleb anointing**' to take the **nine mountains** of ...

The art world,

The business world,

The religious world,

The church world,

The media world,

The educational world,

The family world,

The government world and

The science world/the technology world.

Until all things are under the Lordship of Christ. As 1Co 15:27 (MKJV) says "For He (GOD) put **all things** under His (CHRIST'S) feet. The **business calling** is therefore a **holy** call. Just as becoming a Pastor is a holy call. Nothing less and nothing more.

2. What is our purpose for entering the **Business world**?

If it is that we enter the business world for **profit purposes only** (even though we are called to excellence in profitability) or if the business exists solely **for the purpose of supporting volunteer missionaries** only than we do not have the biblical world view on this. But if it is so that thru our...

Works (excellence in profit) and

Words (excellence in our commitments and proclaiming Christ) and

Way of life (excellence in our example)

That we exhibit Christ and Christ alone than we are kingdom business people with **the twin values** of *business as mission* and *business in mission*.

3. What does **Old Testament history** say about business?

The Hebrew word '**bereshit**' means '**head**' or '**first**' and is usually translated as 'in the beginning'. Applying the hermeneutical principle of the **law of first mention** to the **book of beginnings** or Genesis we find God's standard for life. A look at Genesis chapter 5 suggests that long life is how he measures our work in life and not profit. All the successful business ventures except Noah were from selfish people who rebelled against God. Does that mean that the Old Testament is against **business fruitfulness**? Definitely NOT. In fact the Old Testament attitude is that the quality of life is what God is looking and measuring us for. If business or business profit is to improve the quality of life and the length of it than that is the Old Testament view of business. In other words **the Old Testament example is business as mission**. Business as mission is to continue and uphold the creation mandate. To be good stewards of all that the creator has given us. To be good stewards enforcing good over evil. That is business as mission.

4. What does New Testament history say about business?

In the whole New Testament we have **only** 4 business people and out of the 4 we have Paul who was not a full time business man. However, the New Testament text proves as we see in the verses below that they **used their money exclusively to pioneer the early church and not for private profit** proving that *the New Testament model was business in mission...* that is they used their money **solely** to further the gospel **alone**.

a. Luk 8:2, 3 and also certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities; Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven demons, and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, **who ministered to Him of their possessions**.

b. Act 16:14 And a certain woman named **Lydia** heard us, **a seller** (dealer) of purple of the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God; whose heart the Lord opened, so that she attended to the things which were spoken by Paul.

c. Act 18:2, 3 and finding a certain Jew named **Aquila**, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy with his wife **Priscilla** (because Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome) **Paul** came to them.

And **because he was of the same trade**, he stayed and worked with them; for they were **tentmakers by occupation**.

d. Act 20:33, 34 I have coveted no man's silver or gold or apparel.

Yea, you yourselves know that these hands have ministered **to my needs, and to those who were with me**.

e. 2Th 3:8, 9 neither did we **eat any man's bread freely**, but we worked with labor and travail night and day, so that we might not be heavy on any of you (Not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example to you, to imitate us).

5. Business men in Church history?

When we look at business people in church history we see an exhibition of one of these values. It seems that most times when we see failure in business according to God's standards we see people mess up in these two areas: They are the twin values of business **as mission and business in mission**. Many business people through out church history have used their money-making wisdom to further the gospel. Still others have tried to make their businesses as ministry **alone** and have built their own empire in independence Kingdom business people and great commission businesses are called to ministry...

Business ministry but not as just **a kingdom in itself**. Kingdom business people are **also** called to support **volunteer ministry** around the world also. We are not just called to be **salt and light and yeast** in our businesses but we are called to **support others** in God's volunteer work with our money. People who don't have **the skill to make money** and people who do have that skill-are called to interdependence. That is the body of Christ in action. All the joints and sinews are well connected and supplying each others needs. Christ the head being the decision maker calling us to **interdependence**.

6. What is the conclusion of the matter?

-Is kingdom businesses made **for people** or are **people made for kingdom business**?

-Is the great commission business created **for profitability alone** or for **the needs of people also**?

-Is bible-based business pioneered **as a ministry** or to **support volunteer ministry**?

-As people called to business ministry are we to practice **communism** (where the gang rules) or **capitalism** (where the individual rules) or **relationism** (where relationships rule)?

-As business missionaries are we called to **independence** or **dependence** or **interdependence**?

-Is business as mission (**BAM**) the model to follow or business in mission (**BIM**) or both?

-Do we follow the **creation mandate only** or have businesses to **support volunteer missionaries alone**?

-do kingdom business people have a responsibility of supporting the **local church programs, the local Christian leaders and the local poor (Christian and non-Christian)** with their fruit of making money.