

A Business person's role in God's Kingdom – Jonathan Shibley and Kevin Pate

Business leaders are asking these questions today: Where do I fit in the Kingdom of God? Can I be a business leader and a Christian? Does the Bible apply to business? Can God use me? The answer is a resounding yes! Business leaders are very strategic in God's plan for the world and play a most vital role because commerce is the sustaining power and a driving force of every community and nation. Business leaders need to know their role is much more than making money to give to the church and that they have a unique and tremendous opportunity to build His Kingdom and impact all parts of society.

The Role of Business Leaders Fulfills Biblical Mandates

The Bible has much to say about money, business, and relationships in a company and much of the Bible speaks specifically to business issues. While we are familiar with how major themes in the Bible apply to our personal lives, the major themes in the Bible all have important business application as well. The challenge for business leaders is to take Bible verses that they have heard applied to Sunday and find their relevance to Monday through Saturday.

The Great Commission

Business leaders are on a mission for God through business to the nations. God has business leaders on an assignment and they have unequalled opportunity through companies to reach non-believers.

Matthew 28:18-19

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Dominion

The dominion theme in the Bible in which all are called to is a primary mandate for business leaders to redeem the earth and everything therein and bring it under God's rulership.

Genesis 1:28

28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Stewardship

In *Matthew 25:14-29* God's challenge is to manage every resource that He puts in our control for His Kingdom purposes and increase.

Kingdom stewardship is a way of thinking and a lifestyle in which we receive the resources and responsibilities that God has entrusted to us. We purpose to use and increase those resources in a Kingdom worthy manner. The goal of stewardship is to increase as the three servants found out when the master returned.

After stewarding and achieving increase there is also a reward discussed in *Matthew 25:21* of 1) receiving approval – "*well done, good and faithful servant*", 2) receiving an increasing responsibility – "*you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler of many things*", and 3) being invited into a deeper relationship – "*enter into the joy of your Lord*".

Harvest

Jesus is looking for “business partners” who will work with Him and participate in what He is doing in the earth.

Matthew 9:37-38

37 Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.

38 Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”

Jesus Christ is actively redeeming lives in the marketplace with those who will see the hopeless and have a heart to help them.

The Business Leader’s Role is a High Calling

Do NOT minimize His call and anointing on your life

Every person has a calling and a purpose for their life and business owners are no exception. There is no hierarchy of callings with pastors and missionaries having a “higher calling” and everyone else has a “lower” calling. Not everyone is called to the same location in society. The calling to business is a high calling. God’s calling implies that you have the gifts and abilities to do the task. There is a link between your God given talents, abilities and your calling in that your calling will be connected to capabilities God has placed in you. There is also a direct link when you walk in your calling that opens the door in your work to God’s anointing in the form of His power, presence, and provision. The call is not to build a church building, but to take the Kingdom of God to the kingdom of darkness. The ministry is in the marketplace.

Establish His ways in the business world

Kingdom business leaders seek God’s help to establish His ways in the business world. God wants us to be His agents for bringing prosperity, justice, righteousness, integrity, healing and hope to the world. As business leaders allow God to work through them in the context of business, the work becomes sacred and holy just like a pastor’s work. They view their business as their ministry. Establishing biblical principles in the business will cause the business to be fundamentally different than others in the marketplace. Employees, customers and vendors/suppliers will all notice a difference in the way they are treated and dealt with on a daily basis. Partner with God in His work **to jobs for people**, to create wealth, create capital, and create jobs.

There is no sacred / secular split

There is a dangerous lie that Satan has successfully spread through the body of Christ- that there is a “sacred part” of life that is to be used when in church and a “secular part” of life that we used when at work and play. For the Christian there is no division between sacred and secular. Jesus Christ is Lord of all of life, not just certain parts. It is impossible and unhealthy to attempt to serve two masters; often that struggle is between serving God or serving money.

Matthew 6:24

24 “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

When God is allowed to move and work in all areas of life, there will be freedom from the inner conflict of attempting to live both a “sacred life” and a “secular life.” Business leaders will be the most fulfilled, satisfied and joyful when realizing that all things are sacred.

To Understand the Role, Business Leaders Must Understand the Times

Globalization has forever changed the boundaries of business. Because of technology people from all around the world are more connected than ever before. Globalization has greatly enabled increased interaction, commerce, and communication for large and small business. God is using globalization to get His message dispersed and commerce is essential. Business leaders have been strategically placed in each nation for this time in history to take the message of the gospel where previously it was not possible. Christians in business are being sent all over the world to do business for their companies and they can use these times to grow and expand the Kingdom of God.

Acts 17:26 says that God determines the times and places men live.

Acts 17:26

26 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings

Business leaders must be aware of what God is doing and how He can use them.

The Business Leader's Role is Carried out in the Marketplace

The marketplace is the center of society and culture as people from every background and nation interact daily. Early believers viewed the marketplace as their mission field and the optimal place to reach out to the unsaved. In the Bible most miracles occurred not in a church, but in the marketplace. Christians in business are to be full-time ministers of the Gospel to other people through business. In the 120+ encounters that Jesus had with people that are recorded in the New Testament. Only about 10 of these were in the temple or synagogue and the rest were in the marketplace. 39 out of 40 supernatural happenings associated with the New Testament and recorded in the book of Acts happened in the marketplace. God will do unusual and amazing things when He is welcomed into our lives and into the marketplace. God shows up where people need Him most – that is in the marketplace!

The Business Leader's Role in Business Fuels All Major Spheres of Society

Business and commerce are the driving factors behind all cultures. Commerce generates the revenue and creates the wealth that supports education, government, media, entertainment, the arts and religion. This creates opportunities of influence and leadership for Christians in business of each sector of culture. Wise governments will encourage healthy business practices and will not unnecessarily restrict commerce.

The Business Leader's Role Positions Them to Bring Blessings

Marketplace leaders can bring both spiritual and tangible blessings to nations and impact culture in a positive way. In Genesis 12 God made a promise Abraham as a businessman to bless him so that he could be a blessing to all the families of the earth.

Genesis 12:1-3

"Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. 2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

As children of God and business leaders, He extends this covenant to us as we represent Him on the earth. This is done by creating jobs for employees so that they can provide for their families. It is done through honest profit that creates wealth in the city and nation. It is done as

workplaces are created that treat people fairly, with dignity, and compensates appropriately and paid on time.

Business leaders embrace that they are blessed to be a blessing to others daily in the marketplace and to contribute to the overall good of people around us.

The Business Leader's Role Makes Them Agents of Transformation

To transform something means to bring about a change in form, appearance or character. All transformation needs a catalyst to be applied to the situation to start the process. Business leaders have a responsibility to bring about transformation by being a catalyst in their God given assignment through their companies in the marketplace.

Godly business leaders will be used to transform society in several ways:

Acting justly
Doing business in a righteous way
Generating capital
Solving problems with creative solutions
Eliminating systemic poverty
Supporting humanitarian efforts

God wants to raise up a multitude of Kingdom-minded business leaders and companies that have a Great Commission focus for their community.

The Business Leader's Role Means They Are Responsible for Their Nation

Think of a bank account that can grow or shrink as deposits and withdrawals are made and apply that concept to a nation. A nation is the sum total of all the actions of the people of the nation. The actions of each individual in a nation add or subtract "spiritual capital" of that nation. When Christian business leaders in the marketplace consistently do what is right, the nation's spiritual capital account grows, and goodwill, trust, and honesty rise in the nation's system.

Spiritual capital is "deposited" to our nations "account" when Christian business leaders:

- complete an honest transactions in business and avoid illegal activities
- behave with integrity in the midst of corruption and bribery
- honor all people at all times no matter their importance, ethnicity, or gender
- work with excellence in producing goods and services
- work hard and "go the extra mile" when needed
- by doing what is right and exercising Biblical principles in our work as unto the Lord

The infrastructure of spiritual capital in a nation must be grown one business leader at a time. These verses show this principle (**emphasis added**):

Deuteronomy 28:1-6

*"Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. 2 **And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God...**"*

Deuteronomy 28:15-19

*15 "But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, **that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you...**"*

Only God's Spirit working in our hearts can make this a reality. The entire economic system in a nation will work better as Biblical principles are ingrained into society.