

*Building
Biblical
Businesses*



Building Biblical Businesses

Why Are We in Business?

- *To provide for our families?*
- *To support our churches?*
- *To build better communities?*

OR

To Glorify God?



Building Biblical Businesses

Key Scripture Verses

1 Corinthians 10:31-32

*“So whether you eat or drink **or whatever you do**, do it all for the glory of God. Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks, or the Church of God.”*

- We cannot compartmentalize our lives*
- Whether we like it or not, everything we do is a testimony to the lost.*



Building Biblical Businesses

So, How Do We Run Our Businesses?

- *Through our education?*
- *Following the latest market trends?*
- *Good, solid experience and intuition?*
- *Hard work, desire, and determination?*

OR



By Biblical Principles?

Building Biblical Businesses

Key Scripture Verses

Proverbs 3:5-7

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes...”

- Human nature is a sinful nature. DON'T trust it.*
- Our success comes from God's blessing, not our intuition.*



Building Biblical Businesses

Developing a Biblical Business

- 1) Developing an understanding of biblical stewardship***
- 2) Developing a prioritized budget***
- 3) Developing short-term and long-term goals***
- 4) Developing an accountability relationship***



Developing a Biblical Business

Understanding Biblical Stewardship

- *God is a God of Order, Sequence, and Priority*

Genesis 1

- *To be a Steward is to recognize God's sovereignty and to honor Him by your possessions*

Proverbs 3:9

- *To be a Steward is to found faithful*

1 Corinthians 4:2



Developing a Biblical Business

Developing a Prioritized Budget

- *Planning is essential to a rock solid business foundation*

Proverbs 24:27

- *Prioritize your budget!*
- *Honor God, your debtors, your employees, and THEN pay yourself*



Developing a Biblical Business

Developing Long Term Goals

Funding the Gospel

- *Proverbs 3:9 says we are to honor the Lord with the firstfruits of our increase*
- *For Christians WHO HAVE the authority to do so, this means giving a portion of a company's earnings to Christian ministries*



Besides, whose company is it?

Developing a Biblical Business

Developing Long Term Goals

Meeting Needs

- *Business leaders are called to supply the physical needs of those who depend upon it – your employees and your family*



Developing a Biblical Business

Developing Long Term Goals

Discipleship

- How often do we share the gospel with our employees – either by word or action?*
- Let your employees know what your convictions are and what philosophies your company is built upon*



Developing a Biblical Business

Developing Long Term Goals

Making a Profit

- *Yes, it's OKAY for Christians to make money!*
- *Profits are a normal by-product of a well run business*



Developing a Biblical Business

Developing Short Term Goals

- ***Priorities of Money***
- ***Priorities of Time***
- ***Ethical Priorities***
- ***Priorities of Honesty***



Developing a Biblical Business

Developing Short Term Goals

Priorities of Money

-Budgeting and sticking to the budget is of extreme importance to the business owner

•Priorities in Paying

-First, pay suppliers and debtors

-Second, pay those who work for you and count on their business to support their lives

-Finally, pay yourself as owner



Developing a Biblical Business

Developing Short Term Goals

Ethical Priorities

- ***Taxes***

- Why pay income tax?*

- Matthew 22:21***

- What are truly our motivations for avoiding our obligations to our government?*



Developing a Biblical Business

Developing Short Term Goals

Priorities of Honesty

- *American society seems to accept dishonesty as the norm*
- *Honesty is a critical part of our testimony*
- *We may try to hide from our colleagues, but not from God*

Prov. 10:9



Developing a Biblical Business

Developing Accountability Relationships

- *Do we surround ourselves with “yes men?”*
- *Without a system of checks and balances, we WILL drift off course*
 - See example of **David** – 2 Sam. 10-11*
- *Seeking counsel from our spouses **Gen 2:24***
- *Set up an accountability group **Luke 17:3***



Building Biblical Businesses

Using Practical Applications

- 1) Implementing a biblical business plan***
- 2) Providing employee benefits***
- 3) Protecting yourself properly with insurance***
- 4) Understanding retirement planning and what options are best for your business***



Using Practical Applications

Implementing a biblical business plan

- *First things first – The importance of prayer and supplication*
 - A biblical business plan is NOT a marketing plan
 - Creates a biblical foundation for the company
- *Developing a Christian mission and vision statement*
 - A Christian business is not a business for Christians
- *Setting realistic goals about the business setting*
 - Establishing standards of excellence
 - Hiring and firing practices
 - Communicating expectation of owner AND employee



Using Practical Applications

Providing Employee Benefits

Deciding on a pay system

- *Putting employees first*
- *Ask yourself, "Would you be willing and able to live on what you are paying those under your authority?"*

" Look! The wages you failed to pay the workmen who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. You have lived on earth in luxury and self indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter." **James 5:4-5**



Using Practical Applications

Providing Employee Benefits

Providing Medical Benefits

- We need to take ownership of our employees well being.*
- Shows our employees that we do care for them – looking beyond the bottom line*



Using Practical Applications

Providing Employee Benefits

Providing Recreational Activities

- *Nothing helps team bonding like a company getaway DURING BUSINESS HOURS*
- *Another great way to show the love of Christ*
John 13:35



Using Practical Applications

Understanding Retirement Planning

Important benefit to employees AND business

- By offering an employee retirement plan, it shows your willingness to provide for your employees*
- Also, it helps employees to be good stewards by saving for the future.*



- Creates a more desirable company to work for*
- Allows for large tax deductions for the business*

Using Practical Applications

Understanding Retirement Planning

Selecting the Right Kind of Retirement Plan

- *Much of the decision is determined by your corporate structure*
- *Are you more concerned with tax deductions or employee retention (or both?)?*
- *Do you want the company to bear the investment risk (defined benefit plans; pensions) or the employee (defined contribution; 401(k))?*



- *What type of vesting schedule do you want? Immediate? Cliff?*
- *For those eligible, do you want to provide stock options?*

Using Practical Applications

Understanding Retirement Planning

Selecting Your Plan Provider

- *Use a retirement plan provider that helps each employee in choosing their portfolio.*
- *The provider should have a professional available for ANNUAL reviews of your employee's portfolios AND provide ongoing employee education about investing*



Using Practical Applications

Understanding Retirement Planning

Selecting Your Investments

- *Retirement is a long-term investment*
- *Choose a fund company with a long-term outlook offering a variety of investment choices*
- *Stay away from “momentum players”*
- *Don't use companies offering ONLY their funds*



