



## What is a Christian Business?

The term *Christian Business* is probably an oxymoron because a business does not have a soul. A more likely designation might be - *Christians who decide to operate a business on Biblical principles.*

However, a business is a place where a collection of souls lives out God's call on their lives, whether they realize it or not. We can say that the witness of a business is the sum of the individual witnesses of its employees.

A business owner may be a Christian trying to live out Christian values in the business. However, if the employees aren't acting them out, then what kind of witness will the business have! Generally, it's the business that gets bad mouthed, not the individual employees. People will say, "You don't want to do business with XYZ Company because..."

If the Christian business owner in concert with the Holy Spirit is being a good steward and being diligent at how God's principles are being carried out in the business, then the witness of the business will reflect that. People will say, "You want to do business with ABC Company because they always keep their word, will make it right, etc."

The most important value of being in business as a Christian is that we practice the same biblical values in all relationships, transactions and attitudes. In other words for a Christian in business there are some basic values that never change. The business we run serves as a platform for demonstrating the values of Jesus Christ.

- We are called to honor Jesus Christ in all that we do in relationships and transactions in this life.
- We are called to understand that everything belongs to God. We are His stewards.
- As Christians we do not have a different set of values for the workplace. There is no sacred (Sunday values) and secular (workplace values) split in our activity.
- We are never better than others, but different in our approach to business activities.
- We understand from the beginning that we will be held accountable before God for every decision and action in our lives.
- We understand that we need to work with integrity and focus on God's principles if we are to be a profitable business that honors God.

The term 'Christian business' is better stated as a 'Christian in business.' Our Corporate Charter will not stand before God, neither will our Price/Earnings Ratio. The conversation with us will revolve more around what kind of a steward we were with God's resources and how we loved His people. The bigger question will be whether we and our employees are considered to have been in a 'witness protection program' not reflecting God's light in living out our calls.

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