

Small Group Questions

1. Why do you believe many marketplace Christians remain in business but give up on experiencing the joy of the Lord in their work or the joy of significant success?
2. Describe your own struggle with a fear of profit or of becoming materialistic.
3. Do you believe that the tangible world is intrinsically evil? Why or why not?
4. Have you considered that the devil may fear you as a marketplace Christian? What are some ways he has tried to prevent you from fulfilling your divine destiny in the marketplace?
5. Do you feel your work outside the Church is less spiritual than work done inside the Church?
6. What are some benefits when pastors and business people relate as ministry peers?

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THE GOD OF MINISTRY IS ALSO THE GOD OF BUSINESS

Two Misconceptions Regarding Success

1. Success is something Christians can't handle well.
2. The Church unintentionally gives the impression that God despises rich people.

How Does God Really Feel About the Rich/Successful?

1. God loves everyone and does not make a distinction based on social status.
2. The church often exhibits a negative bias toward the rich.
3. This is the result of ascribing innate virtue to poverty while suspecting intrinsic vices in wealth/success.

The Tiny Caterer and the Giant

- What motivated David to fight Goliath?
- David, a junior partner in a family-owned husbandry business (2 Samuel 17:15-19), now a caterer, went to the battlefield to deliver food to his brothers
- "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine?" (1 Samuel 17:26)

The God of Ministry is Also the God of Business

- David knew that the deal was morally right, a sure thing, and profitable. Consequently, he was convinced it should be pursued
- He expected God to be with him in this undertaking just as he was with him when he fought the lions
- Eliab tried to disqualify him from any role on the battlefield on account of his occupation (1 Samuel 17:28)
- David turned away from Eliab and kept asking the same question (1 Samuel 17:30)
- "When the words that David spoke were heard, they told them to Saul and he sent for him." (1 Samuel 17:31)

Profit Motive is Not Necessarily Evil

- This misconception prevents many Christians from succeeding in business
- The expectations imposed on Christian business people resemble how women were treated during the Victorian era in regards to sex
- In the case of Christian business people, thwarting this motivation is what the devil is after
- Labeling them as “profit/success driven” in a demeaning way, he either keeps them away from the marketplace, or handicaps with self-doubts those that choose to enter it

Business Experience Applied to Spiritual Challenge

- David drew on his business experience to overcome the spiritual challenge before him
- Nowadays we have dichotomized the material and the spiritual worlds

“If my people humble themselves and pray and seek my face after turning from their wicked ways, I will hear their prayers, will forgive their sin and I will heal the land!” (2 Chronicles 7:14)

- The land this verse refers to is the land we live on, the economy it sustains and everything else that emanates from it, all of which have been defiled by sin
- No one appreciates the need for the healing of the land more than people in the marketplace

The Devil Fears Marketplace People

- All through the Bible we see how people in the marketplace who operated under the power of God inflicted serious injury on the devil’s empire: Joseph, Moses, Job, Gideon, David, Daniel, Esther, Elijah, Peter, Paul, Barnabas
- Your divine destiny is in the marketplace. Marketplace Christians have the same spiritual capacity that the Seven and the Roman Centurion had (Acts 6:7)

Do not let your occupation block your destiny but instead let your destiny shape your occupation by turning it into your ministry.

NOTES