FCCI CURRICULUM:

Does Your Business Reflect the Glory of God —Tony Evans

In this short two session series, Dr. Tony Evans offers an exciting answer to the question "What does it look like when Christian business owners and CEO's are functioning in the marketplace AND they're doing it right?" Quoting the Scripture verses "You are the salt of the earth" and "You are the light of the world", Dr. Evans offers practical application of the terms "salt" and "light" as well as explanation of the term "good works." This "must-see" series was filmed at the 2001 FCCI Conference in Maui, Hawaii.

Dr. Anthony (Tony) T. Evans is founder and serves as Senior Pastor of the over 7,000 member Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas, Texas. He is also founder and president of The Urban Alternative, a national organization that seeks to bring about spiritual renewal in urban America through the church.

Dr. Evans also received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Eastern College in St. Davids, Pennsylvania and an Honorary Doctor of Divinity from Dallas Baptist University in Dallas, Texas. He was named "Student of the Year", Carver Bible College (1972); received the "Outstanding Achievement" award from Dallas Theological Seminary (1976); graduated from Carver Bible College and Dallas Theological Seminary with academic honors. Listed in Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges, and Outstanding Young Men of America. He was the first African-American to graduate with a doctoral degree from Dallas Theological Seminary.

He also served as chaplain for the NFL's Dallas Cowboys and previously served as chaplain for the NBA's Dallas Mavericks. He is married to Lois, and is the father of four children: Chrystal, Priscilla, Anthony, Jr., and Jonathan, and six grandchildren.



In pursuit of Christ's eternal objectives, we equip and encourage Christian business leaders to operate their businesses and conduct their personal lives according to Biblical principles.

FCCI CURRICULUM:

Does Your Business Reflect the Glory of God?

SESSION 1: YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH

OVERVIEW: When Christian disciples become so mixed up with a secular way of operating (the "bitterness" of this world order begins to define their practices and principles), they become "good for nothing Christians" or "good for nothing Businessmen". The only "good" they become is to be" walked on" that is, not to be taken seriously.

SCRIPTURE: Joshua 5

The Foundation



- Your challenge is to make sure that your foundation is solid.
- The greater the building you want to erect, the deeper the hole you've got to drill.
- The greater the "super structure" you want to develop in your life or in your business (the higher up that ladder you want to go), the deeper the foundation must be.
- It's quite difficult to build a sky scraper on the foundation of a chicken coupe.

It's easy to go through the motions.

It's easy to look like a Christian.

It's easy to look like you're running a Christian business:

- get the plaque
- have the prayer time
- give the impression that this is a Christian institution without having drilled a deep foundation.

Our world is in desperate need of men and women in the marketplace who are:

Technically excellent (who do what they do well)

AND

Spiritually mature (who do it on the proper foundation).

What does it look like when Christians are functioning in the world (the marketplace) and they're doing it right?

SALT "you are the salt of the earth"

SALT is a *staple of preservation*.

You are the salt of the business world — your job is to:

1) leave the shaker and

2) enter the meat (the world)

Why were Sodom and Gomorrah destroyed?

They were not destroyed because the sinners were sinning. Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed because the Righteous were no where to be found (privatized Christianity).

"Privatized Christianity" = Personal peace & affluence

- My profits
- My expansion
- My success

When the righteous are no where to be found, when Christianity is "privatized" in the culture, the culture is in trouble — because God will accept the Righteous as a down payment against the unrighteous.

Use *your* influence to do business in such a way that demonstrates in a secular society what it looks like when salt comes in and achieves its goal of being "in the meat" without becoming a part "of the meat" in order that it might be a "preserver for the meat".

SALT *creates thirst*.

Your job (of being salt in a secular society) is to create enough thirst (for your employees and your customers) that they not only want your product, they also want to find out about your living water (your relationship with Jesus Christ).

There is no contradiction between delivering a great product or service and doing it in the name of Jesus Christ.



PRACTICAL APPLICATION

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What **visible** evidence exists in your business that indicates your business is owned by Jesus Christ?

2. What **invisible** evidence exists in your business that indicates your business is owned by Jesus Christ?

3. Do the two "match"? Why or why not? _____

4. Provide your group with some examples of difficult times/issues when you were required to be "in the world" but had to resist the temptation to be "of the world".

FCCI CURRICULUM:

Does Your Business Reflect the Glory of God?

SESSION 2: YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

OVERVIEW: What are "good works"? They are righteous goals reached by righteous methods, done by righteous people. Good works are what distinguishes a Christian owned/operated business from the business down the street that does the same thing that your business does.

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 2:8–10

LIGHT — You are the light of the world.

The only job of light is to so illuminate the darkness, that darkness no longer dominates the area.

When things are dark — whoever has the light, runs the show.

Let your light so shine before men (public light) — a clear testimony, a lack of ambiguity.

If you are a Christian, "be that" (don't be ashamed of your identification) in such a way that men see your good works (not hear your good words only).

What are good works?

They are *NOT* good things (sinners can do good things)

Good works are divinely orchestrated goals (doing what God wants done) achieved by divinely authorized means (the methodology used to achieve the goal is as Godly as the goal you are trying to reach).

God wants to be Lord over the MEANS and the ENDS!

When God is the sovereign director over methodology and product — over input and outcome — *that* is good works.



In business, God wants you to do ***good works***, so that they see not only the product, they also see:

- The methodology
- The quality
- The depth
- The commitment
- The presence of God through the process

The principles for all the ***good works*** God calls you to do are found in the Scriptures. Because God not only gives the means. He provides the processes for you to conduct your business in such a way that benefits people and glorifies God!

Glory means to:

- Show off
- Put on display
- Highlight
- Advertise
- Embellish

So that the invisible God *becomes visible* through the ***good works*** that you do… and He looks good.



INSIGHT QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Name some of the ways you believe that you glorify God through your business.

2. Is the definition given by Tony Evans for "good works" different from what you had previously understood or believed? If so, in what ways?

3. What changes will be necessary for you to begin performing "good works" through your business? When will you make these changes?

4. In what ways might an employee or customer indicate that their life has been impacted by the fact that they work for or trade with your Christian-owned/operated business? How might you improve in this area?