

*Life Development*

*Leadership Development*

*Organizational Development*

***Kingdom Development***

***Business by the Book***  
***David Rae***

*@work*

*an ministry of FCCI*

*Spiritual Maturity*

*Servant Leadership*

*Organizational Excellence*



***Kingdom Company***

Business school textbooks, once filled with biblical **principles**, have given way to the **pragmatics** of the bottom line.

Challenges of operating a godly business:

- Most Christians today are far less biblically oriented in their thinking.
- Society is much more secularized.
- Far more complex business environment.

As a result, most think that you have to do one of two extremes:



Although God does call **some** people out of business, He calls **most** to serve Him in business, where they can influence their customers, vendors, employees, and competitors for Christ.

### GOD'S WAYS OF CONDUCTING BUSINESS ARE DIFFERENT

*"My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways," declares the Lord.*

*"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."*

Isaiah 55:8-9

Regardless of how different God's thoughts and ways seem to be, the Word of God is just as applicable to **business** as it has ever been.

*The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.*

Isaiah 40:8

### 3 Objectives of *Business by the Book*

- 1) to integrate principles from Scripture with your daily practices
- 2) to grow your company profitably

Honest profit, earned in a way that glorifies God, is **essential**, to your business.

*"I am the Lord your God,  
who teaches you to profit,  
who leads you in the way  
you should go."*

Isaiah 48:17

*"The Lord be magnified  
who delights in the  
prosperity of His servant."*

Psalms 35:27

- 3) to develop leadership skills and to grow in Christ so that you will be more like Him as a business leader

### OWNERSHIP

*The earth is the Lord's, and **all** it contains.*

Psalms 24:1

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After creating things, He never transferred the **ownership** of His creation to people. Recognizing God's ownership is foundational to making Jesus Christ the Lord of our businesses. He is the owner of **every** business, large or small, public or private.

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*No one of you can be my disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.*

Luke 14:33

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Although we are incapable of comprehending how His sovereignty encompasses our free will, we are clearly told that He is in **control**.

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*We adore you as being in control of **everything**.*

1 Chronicles 29:11

*Whatever the Lord pleases, He does,  
in heaven and in earth.*

Psalm 135:6

*I am the Lord, and there is no other,  
the One forming light and creating darkness,  
causing well-being and creating calamity;  
I am the Lord who does all these.*

Isaiah 45:6-7

*And we know that God causes all things to work  
together for good to those who love him, to those  
who are called according to His purpose.*

Romans 8:28

God allows difficult circumstances...

1) to accomplish **His** intentions

*Do not be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life...it was not you who sent me here, but God...*

Genesis 45: 5

*As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to...preserve many people alive.*

Genesis 40:20

2) to develop our **character**

*We also rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character...*

Romans 5:3,4

3) to **discipline** His children

*...For those whom the Lord loves, He disciplines.*

Hebrews 12:6

*...God disciplines us for our good...*

Hebrews 12:10

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OUR RESPONSIBILITY

Moreover it is required of stewards, that one be found faithful.

1 Corinthians 4:2

steward: manager of someone else's possessions

"Small things are small things, but faithfulness with a small thing is a big thing."

Hudson Taylor (missionary / statesman)

He who is faithful in a very little thing is also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing, is unrighteous also in much.

Luke 16:10

The businessperson is in a position to influence people for Christ who would rarely consider attending a church.

4 Purposes to Drive Our Business

"I have a call from God. I am convinced that His purpose for me is in the business world. My business is my pulpit."

- Stanley Tam (God Owns My Business)

1) to glorify God

Whatever you do, do your work heartily as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

Colossians 3:23-24

Christian business leaders try to build win-win relationships, not only because it is a good business practice, but because they sincerely care about other people. It glorifies God and earns the right to introduce others to the Savior.

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## 2) to make a profit

- provide a product or service that helps people
- employment for people
- reinvest in the company and community
- expand your platform for ministry

## 3) to support the work of Christ

There is a dependent relationship between those involved in Christian ministry and Christians in **business**. They need each other. This is not an accidental relationship; God **designed** it that way.

*Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly; if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; if service in his serving...or he who gives, with liberality.*

Romans 12:6-8

*God has placed the members of each one of them in the body, just as He desired. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you."*

1 Corinthians 12:18, 21

Business men and women understand that they are **strategic** in funding the work of Christ, their work takes on **eternal** significance.

## 4) to spiritually impact our sphere of influence

*Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain.*

Psalm 127:1



Discussion Questions

What has been the hardest thing for you to give up ownership of? How has God reminded you of His ownership in the past and how has it helped you learn this lesson?

Share a difficult circumstance that God allowed to happen in your life in order for you to learn the importance of giving up control.

In what ways have you taken responsibility as a Christian businessman / businesswoman? How is this evidenced in your organization?

What are your top two or three purposes for being in business? How do you think they compare with the purposes God has for you in business?

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## *Additional Notes*

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