

Biblical Business Assessment



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BUSINESS
RESOURCE CENTER

The Spectrum for a Christian Business

Is there such a thing as a Christian business? If so, what exactly sets it apart from any other business?

Those are common questions among the Christian business community. The answer isn't that simple. Just as individuals are at different places on their journey to come to know God, so businesses are at different places as well. There is a spectrum on which Christian businesses and Christian business people can be placed to identify their relative position regarding the degree to which "Christianity" influences their business. Let's consider each place on the scale.

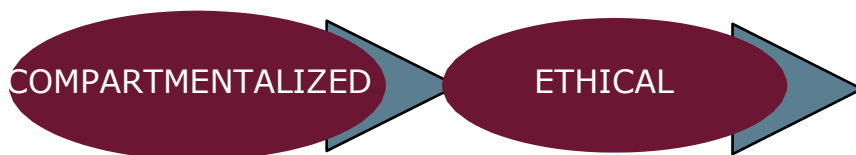
On one end of the spectrum is "compartmentalized" Christianity. It starts with the idea that Christianity is primarily about church and that business and church just don't mix. The two are compartmentalized.

This is the view that is often expressed by the traditional institutional church. Dividing the world into "sacred" and "secular," it holds that everything sacred happens within the province of the church. Business exists in the secular world and so has no relationship to Christianity, other than to fund the institutional church system.

The next place on the spectrum is occupied when the Christian business person accepts the idea that as a Christian, he ought to conduct his business with some personal Christian qualities: integrity, honesty, fairness, among others. I call them 'ethical' Christian business people. They attend church on Sundays, get involved in the boards and programs, and believe that their Christian faith is primarily expressed through their church involvement.

Their on-the-job Christianity is more defined by what they don't do than what they do. For example, they may refuse to join others in a drinking session at an industry conference or avoid taking customers to strip clubs.

They may avoid risqué jokes and be careful of their language. When asked about their spiritual journey, they talk about their involvement in the institutional church. On the spectrum, as we move from left to right, the 'ethical' Christian business person is next to the 'compartmentalized.'



Many Christian business people never proceed beyond this point, believing that it marks the intersection of their faith with their business. At this point, the institutional church system, and all its paradigms and pressures, becomes an obstacle to spiritual growth, because it keeps its proponents centered on it.

The next position is occupied by those who come to the point where they see that Christian principles can be applied to their business, not just their personal behavior. They begin to apply principles of sowing and reaping, for example, as well as other Christian principles as they become aware of them. They begin to see their business as a money-making entity that generates funds for church and mission work and may begin to give out of the profits of the business.

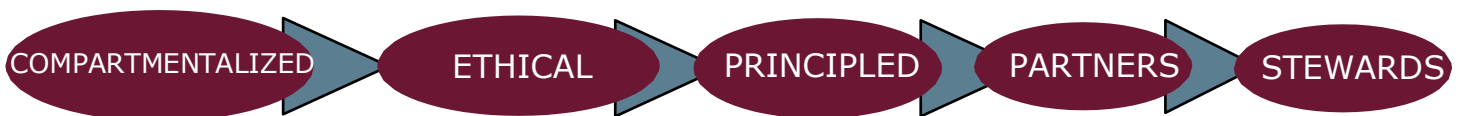
At this point, they may join a Christian business organization, like CBMC or the Christian Business Network, and begin to network with other Christian business people. They begin to believe that God is interested in their business, not just their church involvement. Their prayer is, "God, please help me with my business."



In the next position, the Christian business person understands that God is interested in them and their business. This is a deeper level of understanding. They begin to take business issues to Him in prayer and think of God as "partner" in their business. Their prayer is "God, please partner with me in this business."



As they move deeper, they come to the realization that God is not a partner, He owns the business. Their perspective shifts from "God, help me with this business." To "God, help me be a steward of your business." They spend more time in prayer, they seek God's direction through the scriptures and in prayer. At this point, they may seek out a support group of other Christian business people, and join a Christian Business Impact Group, or some other local resource.



The last stage is reached when they realize that the business which they steward is an expression of God's Kingdom. They begin to see that it has potential to impact people far more deeply than just in the money that it generates. For example, they don't think of their employees as only 'employees,' any more. They begin to see themselves as "pastors" of a slice of the Lord's church – their business and the employees, vendors, customers and other stake-holders in it.

While they understand the need to be good at the business, they now see every decision through the viewpoint of its spiritual implications. They seek the leading of the Holy Spirit daily. They may assemble a team of intercessors for their business. Their mission is to extend the Kingdom into the worlds that they inhabit. They understand that they are anointed for their position as ministers of business.



Where are you on this spectrum?

Take the self-assessment on the pages that follow.

BIBLICAL BUSINESS ASSESSMENT

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

BUSINESS NAME: _____

Directions: Think about how often you would agree with the statement below and put a check mark in the box that indicates that.

	NEVER	RARELY	OCCASIONALLY	FREQUENTLY	ALL THE TIME
1. There is no connection between my work and church on Sunday.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. I pray about issues at work.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. I believe that God's work is what the church does. Business is something different.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Where the church and business connect is money. My business is a means of generating funds, some of which find their way into the church.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. I think it is important to bring personal Christian qualities to my work: integrity, honesty, fairness, among others.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. I can use my business skills in the church by serving on boards and supporting programs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

BIBLICAL BUSINESS ASSESSMENT

(continued)

	NEVER	RARELY	OCCASIONALLY	FREQUENTLY	ALL THE TIME
7. I refrain from 'sinful' activities in my business, such as gambling, bribing, and strip clubs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. I see my spiritual journey as primarily revolving around my activities in the church.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. The principle of sowing and reaping, for example, applies just as much to business as it does to church work.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. I believe my business can be a money-making effort that generates funds for church and mission work.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. I believe God is interested in my business.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. I pray, "God, help with my business."	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. I take business issues to God in prayer.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. I think of God as a partner in my business.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. I pray, "God, please partner with me in my business."	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

BIBLICAL BUSINESS ASSESSMENT

(continued)

	NEVER	RARELY	OCCASIONALLY	FREQUENTLY	ALL THE TIME
16. My position is best summed up by the cliché: God is my co-pilot.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. I think of God as the owner and senior partner of my business.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. I often pray, "God show me what you want me to do with your business."	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. I surround myself with other committed Christian business people.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. I seek God's direction for my business through prayer, scripture and interaction with other Christian business people.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. I see myself as a pastor of a flock – my employees, customers and vendors.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22. I have intercessors who pray specifically for my business.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23. My business is an entity in the Kingdom of God and has a specific Kingdom purpose, beyond just making money.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24. I am anointed as a minister of business.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

INTERPRETING YOUR RESULTS

If your responses to items 1 – 4 were mostly on the far right side of the page, you are in the 'compartmentalized' category.

If your responses to items 5 – 8 were mostly on the far right side of the page, you are in the "ethical" category.

If your responses to items 9 – 13 were mostly on the far right side of the page, you are in the "principled" category.

If your responses to items 14 – 17 were mostly on the far right side of the page, you are in the 'partners' category.

If your responses to items 18 – 21 were mostly on the far right side of the page, you are in the "stewards" category.

If your responses to items 22 – 25 were mostly on the far right side of the page, you are in the "kingdom" category.

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