

The Christian in the Business World

Introduction

A. The Christian is one who is committed to the historic Christian values (ethical and creedal), and to the recognition of the Lordship of Jesus Christ. (Luke 6:46; John 8:24; Romans 10:9,10)

B. One question everyone will eventually ask has to do with the meaning and purpose of life. The Bible reminds us that life is short (James 5:13-15), that it is not measured by possessions, (Luke 12:12-21), and that its meaning and purpose is found in living for the glory of God (I Peter 2:9).

C. There is an inseparable relationship between what it means to be a Christian and living for the glory of God. It is in that relationship that we find the answer to the question as to how the Christian is to conduct himself in the business world.

I. The Biblical Plan to Glorify the Lord Jesus Christ.

For by him (the Lord Jesus) were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers, all things were created by him and for him. And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he might have the preeminence. Col. 1:16-18

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people, that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. I Peter 2:9

Comment: The Bible reveals an all-inclusive plan to bring honor and glory to the Lord Jesus. The underlying reason behind all creation and history finds its explanation in this plan. Every Christian has been given a divine "call" which brings him into vital involvement with this divine project.

II. The Christian's Involvement in This Plan.

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. . . that he (the Lord Jesus) might be the firstborn among many brethren. Romans 8:28,29

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people, that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. I Peter 2:9

Comment: Every Christian has been given a "sacred calling" to live in such a way that the Lord Jesus will be honored. This means there is no "secular work" for the Christian.

III. The Christian Responsibility to Glorify Jesus Christ.

Ye are the salt of the earth . . . Ye are the light of the world . . . Let your light (truth-ethics) so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Matthew 5:13-16

Having your conversation (daily life) honest among the Gentiles (non-Christians), that, whereas they speak against you as evil-doers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation. I Peter 2:12

Comment: Perhaps the responsibility emphasized in these passages could be summarized in the words – honesty and truthfulness. All Christians are under a serious obligation to live such a life. For the man or woman in business this would at least mean honesty and truthfulness in advertising, the products sold, the price to be charged, accountability regarding repair or replacement, the treatment of fellow-workers, employer, employees, just salaries and benefits, dependability on the job, turning in a good day's work, and sharing with those in need.

The Christian has been given the privilege of living as a witness to the Lord Jesus Christ. Whatever work we do we must be a good example.

IV. The Divine Provision for the Christian's Success.

A. The provision of salvation.

Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. Ephesians 1:5,6

B. The provision of divine providence.

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose . . . that he (the Lord Jesus) might be the firstborn among many brethren. Romans 8:28,29

C. The provision of the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

In whom ye also trusted . . . ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory. Ephesians 1:13,14

Conclusion: As Christians we must commit ourselves to God to obey Him in fulfilling the call He has given us. Our obedience will open the door for His direction and enablement, as well as our success with its fruitfulness, peace, and fulfillment.

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