

A Biblical View of Business



*A book review of Dennis Peacocke's
Doing Business God's Way, gostrategic.org*

The Garden of Eden was the First Business

God the owner; Adam and Eve the partners



*The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden
to tend (labor) and keep (manage) it – Genesis 2:15*

What is Business?

- Webster's 1828 - *Employment; that which occupies the time, attention and labor of men, for the purpose of profit or improvement.*
- Dennis Peacocke - ...*an exchange of values between two or more parties – TRADE*
- Every occupation is full-time Christian service

If you are in Christ, you are called to extend His kingdom franchise on Earth as a junior partner...

(1) God Created Private Property

- Psalm 24:1 – *The Earth is the Lord's and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it.*
- God is the sovereign owner of all property!
- Psalm 115:16 - *...but the earth He has given to the children of men.*
- We are stewards of private property with responsibility and accountability...

(2) Maturity comes by stewardship

- Grow by caring for people/things (Mt. 25:23)
 - We steward personal responsibility (Pr. 25:28)
 - We give account for *bodies* (long life), *conscience* (attitudes), *relationships* (building together), *talents* (producing proprietors), *possessions* (character generates profit) – we *increase* each area... (quotes from p. 20)
- Lasting wealth through families (Pr. 13:22)
 - Riches we have, wealth is character – p. 32
 - Five categories to leave our children – pgs. 45-47

(3) God loves to Work

- Work is an eternal Calling (2nd Thess. 3:10)
 - God is a creator and entrepreneur (Ge. 1-2)
 - Heaven is a sin-free work environment! (Rev. 21)
 - A believer is held to a higher standard as a worker in the marketplace – (Lk. 12:48; p. 59)
- Service is foundation for growth – Mt. 23:11
 - *Profitable businesses have proprietors* – p. 64
 - Employees focus on rights; proprietors on resp.
 - Capitalism is built on *greed* of owner; socialism is built on *entitlement* from the state / government

(4) What Money reveals about People

- God pays for what He orders – 1st Tim. 6:10
 - Fallacy – *money solves problems, if you run out, print or borrow more* – p. 75
 - Truth – *God has unlimited resources and gives to those a limit of what they can manage*
 - Inflation is theft; debt for greed is bondage p.87
- Risk, self-respect, and redemptive struggle
 - Spiritual choices are seen in the material world
 - Risk and self-respect taught by failure (Ga. 6:7)
 - Eight cocoon-cutting policies... (p. 98-99)

(5) The Cruelty of Economic Blame

- Ideas and economic consequences – Eph. 4:28
 - As a man thinks, so is he – internal to external
 - Don't blame the environment/others – p. 107-109
 - Destroy enemy ideas / replace them – p. 111-118
- Justice and equality are not the same – Pr. 12:10
 - “Equality” today is dressed up envy – Ge. 3:5
 - Equality without justice seen in taxation – p. 125
 - Life isn't fair, but justice is the role of govt. – all are to play by the same rules
 - Examples of the clarity of what equality means

Equality

Inherent in the word common as it is used in the common law is an endorsement of the principle of legal equality. While that principle of equality never came to full bloom in England because of its commitment to special royal and ecclesiastical privileges, the seeds were sown for that to occur in America. – Herb Titus, in God, Man, Law, p. 99

- Equality is based on internal position, not experience
- Unalienable rights given to individuals, not groups
- By voluntary association, can be extended to groups
- The Creation Order determines the nature of equality

Christianity produces true Equality

Christianity then appeared with its central doctrine, that man was created in the Divine image, and destined for immortality; pronouncing, that, in the eyes of God, all men are equal. This asserted for the individual an independent value. It occasioned the great inference, that man is superior to the State, which ought to be fashioned for his use.

Richard Frothingham,
Rise of the Republic of the United States, 1872

Equality of “Entitlements?”

John Adams to John Taylor - 1814

Inequalities are a part of the natural history of man.....

That all men are born to equal rights is true. Every being has a right to his own, as clear, as moral, as sacred, as any other being has. This is as indubitable as a moral government in the universe. But to teach that all men are born with equal powers and faculties, to equal influence in society, to equal property and advantages through life, is as gross a fraud, as glaring an imposition on the credulity of the people, as ever was practiced . . . by the self-styled philosophers of the French Revolution.....”

(6) Godly govt. brings Peace and Productivity

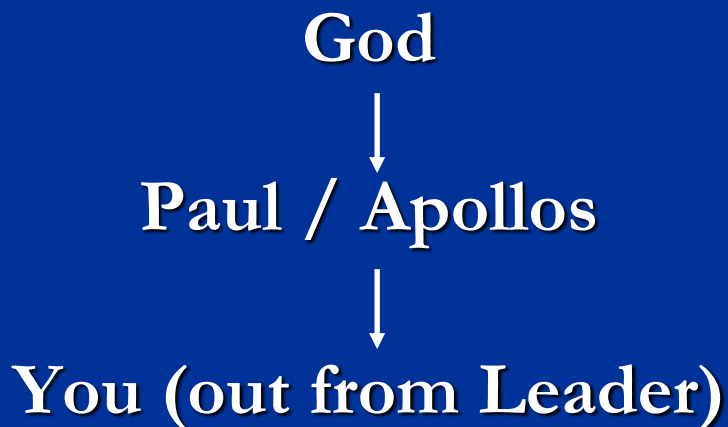
- Functional biblical govt brings productivity
 - The trinity is the model – 1st Timothy 2:1-3
 - God is the source of rights – see chart – p. 134
 - Govt either stimulates or retards productivity (136)
- Threefold Cords that lead to Success – Ec. 4:12
 - True Christianity; *information to transformation*
 - One – only disciples change the world
 - Two – have you started building a Biblical worldview?
 - Three – working together strategically; for influence
 - Honesty, competency, and capacity to be trained

Biblical Government flows from the bottom-up; empowering People

Paternalism

“For while one saith, I am of Paul, and another, I am of Apollos, are you not carnal?”

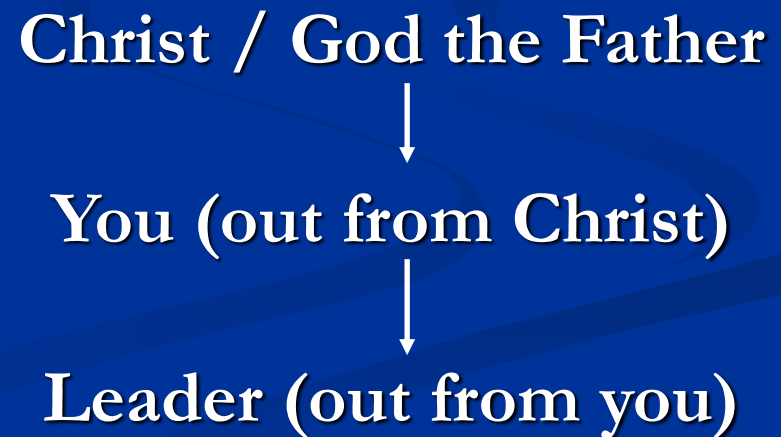
1st Corinthians 3:4



Priesthood of Believer

“...for all things are yours... Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas... all are yours, and you are Christ’s and Christ is God’s.”

1st Corinthians 3:21-23



(7) A Call to True Radicals!

- Discover root structures; build on them
 - Radicals change from the bottom – Is. 58:12
 - Radicals practice the basics – responsibility...
- Six Essential Laws for rebuilding Culture
 - Personal Initiative: *begins in self-government*
 - Healthy Families: *basic building block of society*
 - Effective Churches: *the local church equipping*
 - Private Property: *stewardship key to maturity*
 - Problem Solving: *rebuild local communities*
 - Strategic Thinking: *wars are won with ideas*