

SESSION 4

BUILDING A KINGDOM-MINDED BUSINESS

Main Question:
How can my business become a platform for God's Kingdom?

A Christian business owner should think beyond today's transaction.

Think about:

Legacy. Influence. People.
Community. Generations. Kingdom impact.

1. YOUR BUSINESS CAN SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

Jeremiah told God's people:

"Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you." - Jeremiah 29:7

Although the original context was Israel in exile, the principle reminds God's people to seek the good of the community where God has placed them.

As Chicago business owners, we have an opportunity to contribute to our communities.

- Hire locally
- Mentor young people
- Support small businesses
- Partner with community organizations
- Provide quality products and services
- Create economic opportunity
- Participate in neighborhood development
- Support charitable causes
- Develop future entrepreneurs

2. BUSINESS CAN CREATE OPPORTUNITY

One of the greatest things a business can provide is opportunity.

A healthy business can create:

Jobs. Careers. Training.
Leadership opportunities. Economic mobility. Entrepreneurship.

Your employees should not simply be labor. They should have the opportunity to develop their God-given abilities.

3. DEVELOP FUTURE LEADERS

Moses developed Joshua.
Elijah developed Elisha.

Paul developed Timothy.
Jesus developed His disciples.

Paul wrote:

"What you have heard from me... entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others." - 2 Timothy 2:2

**A Christian business owner should ask:
"Who am I preparing to lead after me?"**

Your greatest legacy may not be the company you build. It may be the **people you develop.**

4. CREATE A CULTURE OF TRUST

Proverbs teaches:

"A good name is more desirable than great riches." - Proverbs 22:1

Your company culture should reflect your values. Create a culture where people know:

**We tell the truth.
We keep our commitments.
We treat people with respect.
We take responsibility.
We pursue excellence.
We help one another.
We serve our customers.
We develop people.
We give back.
We honor God.**

5. HANDLE CONFLICT BIBLICALLY

Conflict is unavoidable in business. Employees will disagree. Customers will complain. Partners will have different opinions. Contracts may go wrong.

The Bible gives us principles for handling conflict.

"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." - Romans 12:18

And:

"A gentle answer turns away wrath." - Proverbs 15:1

Before reacting, ask:

**What is true?
What is fair?
What is wise?
What response honors God?**

6. MAKE DECISIONS WITH PRAYER

Prayer should not only happen when the business is in trouble.

Pray before:

- Hiring
- Firing
- Expanding
- Borrowing
- Investing
- Partnering
- Opening locations
- Entering contracts
- Launching products
- Making major strategic decisions

"Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your plans." - Proverbs 16:3

Prayer does not replace planning.

Prayer should guide planning.

7. DON'T CONFUSE GOD'S BLESSING WITH BUSINESS SUCCESS

Sometimes we assume: **"If my business is growing, God must be pleased."**

Not necessarily. A company can make millions and operate dishonestly. Another business may be struggling financially while the owner is operating with tremendous integrity.

Success must be evaluated through faithfulness.

"Well done, good and faithful servant!" - Matthew 25:21

Notice the word: Faithful.

God is ultimately looking for faithfulness.

8. YOUR BUSINESS IS A MISSION FIELD

You may never preach from a pulpit. But you preach through:

- How you treat employees
- How you handle money
- How you treat customers
- How you handle pressure
- How you respond to failure
- How you handle success
- How you treat competitors
- How you serve your community

Jesus said:

"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." - Matthew 5:16

Your business can become a place where people see the character of Christ.

9. BALANCE BUSINESS, FAMILY, AND FAITH

A business can consume everything if we allow it. But Jesus reminded us:

"What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?" - Mark 8:36

Your business should not become your identity.

You are not:

Your revenue. Your net worth. Your company.

Your title. Your sales numbers.

Your identity is ultimately found in Christ.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come." - 2 Corinthians 5:17

Protect:

Your relationship with God.

Your marriage.

Your children.

Your health.

Your integrity.

Your character.

Your calling.

10. BUILD SOMETHING THAT OUTLIVES YOU

A Kingdom-minded business owner asks: **What will remain after I am gone?**

Not only: "How much money will my children inherit?"

"What values will I leave them?"

"What people will I have developed?"

"What community will be stronger because I was here?"

"What opportunities did I create?"

"What testimony will my business leave behind?"

Psalm 78:4 says:

"We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD."

Build a business that can become part of a legacy of faithfulness.

FINAL FRAMEWORK

THE CHRISTIAN BUSINESS OWNER'S 7 PRINCIPLES

1. GOD OWNS IT

Psalm 24:1

I am a steward, not the ultimate owner.

2. PURPOSE COMES BEFORE PROFIT

Matthew 6:33

I seek God's Kingdom while building a healthy business.

3. PEOPLE MATTER

Genesis 1:27

I treat employees, customers, partners, and vendors with dignity.

4. INTEGRITY IS NON-NEGOTIABLE

Proverbs 11:1

I will not sacrifice character for profit.

5. EXCELLENCE IS WORSHIP

Colossians 3:23

I will pursue excellence because I am ultimately working for the Lord.

6. RESOURCES REQUIRE STEWARDSHIP

Luke 16:10

I will manage money, time, people, and opportunities faithfully.

7. SUCCESS SHOULD CREATE IMPACT

Matthew 5:16

My business should bless people, strengthen my community, and bring glory to God.

THE CHRISTIAN BUSINESS OWNER'S PRAYER

Father,

Thank You for every opportunity, ability, relationship, resource, and idea You have entrusted to me.

I recognize that everything I have ultimately belongs to You.

Give me wisdom to lead my business with integrity. Help me make decisions that honor You.

Teach me to treat my employees with dignity, serve my customers with excellence, manage my finances with wisdom, and use my resources faithfully.

Protect me from greed, pride, dishonesty, and the temptation to make money more important than You.

Give me wisdom when I hire. Give me patience when I lead. Give me courage when I make difficult decisions. Give me humility when I succeed. Give me faith when I face challenges.

Help me develop people, create opportunity, serve my community, and build something that will bless future generations.

May my business not simply be successful. **May it be faithful.**

May the way I lead reflect Christ. May the way I serve reflect Christ. May the way I handle money reflect Christ. May the way I treat people reflect Christ.

And may everything I build ultimately bring glory to You.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

FINAL CHALLENGE

BUILD A BUSINESS GOD CAN TRUST.

Before you leave this course, ask yourself:

1. PURPOSE

Why did God give me this business?

2. PEOPLE

Who is becoming better because they work with me?

3. PROFIT

Am I managing the financial resources God has entrusted to me wisely?

4. INTEGRITY

Would I make the same decision if Jesus were sitting in the room?

5. IMPACT

How is my business making Chicago and my community better?

6. LEGACY

What will remain after I am gone?

7. FAITHFULNESS

If God evaluated my business—not by revenue, but by faithfulness—what would He say?

"Well done, good and faithful servant." - Matthew 25:21

The ultimate goal is not simply to build a successful business.

The goal is to build a business that honors God, serves people, creates opportunity, and leaves a legacy of faithfulness.