

SESSION 1

THE CHRISTIAN BUSINESS OWNER: PURPOSE BEFORE PROFIT

Main Question:

Who am I as a business owner, and why did God give me this opportunity?

1. BUSINESS BEGINS WITH GOD

Before we talk about revenue, profit, employees, marketing, or expansion, we need to understand ownership.

"The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it." — Psalm 24:1

Everything we have ultimately comes from God.

Your business may carry your name, but everything you have—including your ability to create, lead, sell, communicate, innovate, and solve problems—is ultimately a gift from God.

"You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth." — Deuteronomy 8:18

This changes our perspective.

We don't ask:

"How much can I get?"

We ask:

"How can I faithfully manage what God has entrusted to me?"

2. YOUR BUSINESS SHOULD HAVE A PURPOSE BEYOND PROFIT

Profit is important.

A business that never produces a profit cannot survive for long.

But **profit should be a result of creating value—not the only purpose of the business.**

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

A Christian business owner should pursue:

- Profit
- Excellence
- Customer satisfaction
- Employee development
- Community impact
- Financial responsibility
- Integrity
- Generosity
- God's glory

Business Principle:

Profit is necessary for sustainability, but purpose determines how you use your profit.

3. WORK IS A GOD-GIVEN ASSIGNMENT

Work is not a punishment.

Work existed before sin entered the world.

"The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." — Genesis 2:15

Your business can therefore become part of your stewardship before God.

Whether you own:

- A restaurant
- Construction company
- Cleaning business
- Consulting firm
- Technology company
- Financial services business
- Beauty business
- Transportation company
- Real estate company
- Retail business
- Professional practice
- Family business

You can serve God through your work.

4. EXCELLENCE IS PART OF OUR WITNESS

Christian businesses should not use faith as an excuse for poor performance.

The Bible teaches us to pursue excellence.

"Do you see someone skilled in their work? They will serve before kings." — Proverbs 22:29

And:

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord." — Colossians 3:23

Ask:

Would I be proud to put God's name on the way I operate this business?

Business Application

Excellence means:

- Returning calls
- Meeting deadlines

- Keeping promises
- Producing quality work
- Maintaining professional standards
- Being prepared
- Solving problems
- Treating customers respectfully
- Paying people correctly
- Taking responsibility for mistakes

5. INTEGRITY IS YOUR BUSINESS CURRENCY

Your reputation may take years to build and minutes to destroy.

"The LORD detests dishonest scales, but accurate weights find favor with him." — Proverbs 11:1

God cares about how we conduct business.

That means:

No deceptive pricing.

No false advertising.

No manipulation.

No fraudulent practices.

No dishonest accounting.

No exploitation of employees.

No taking advantage of customers.

"Let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.'" — Matthew 5:37

Christian Business Standard:

Do what you said you would do.

6. YOUR NAME IS PART OF YOUR LEGACY

Proverbs says:

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

Your business reputation matters.

But your personal reputation matters even more.

Ask yourself:

If my customers knew how I made every decision, would they still trust me?

If my employees described my leadership, would they see Christ in me?

If my children studied the way I conduct business, would I want them to imitate me?

SESSION 1 DISCUSSION

1 Why did God give you your business?

- 2 What problem does your business solve?
- 3 Who does your business serve?
- 4 What biblical values should define your company?
- 5 Where do you need greater integrity?
- 6 What do you want your business to be known for?

SESSION 1 ACTION STEP

Write a simple statement:

"God has entrusted me with this business so that I can _____."