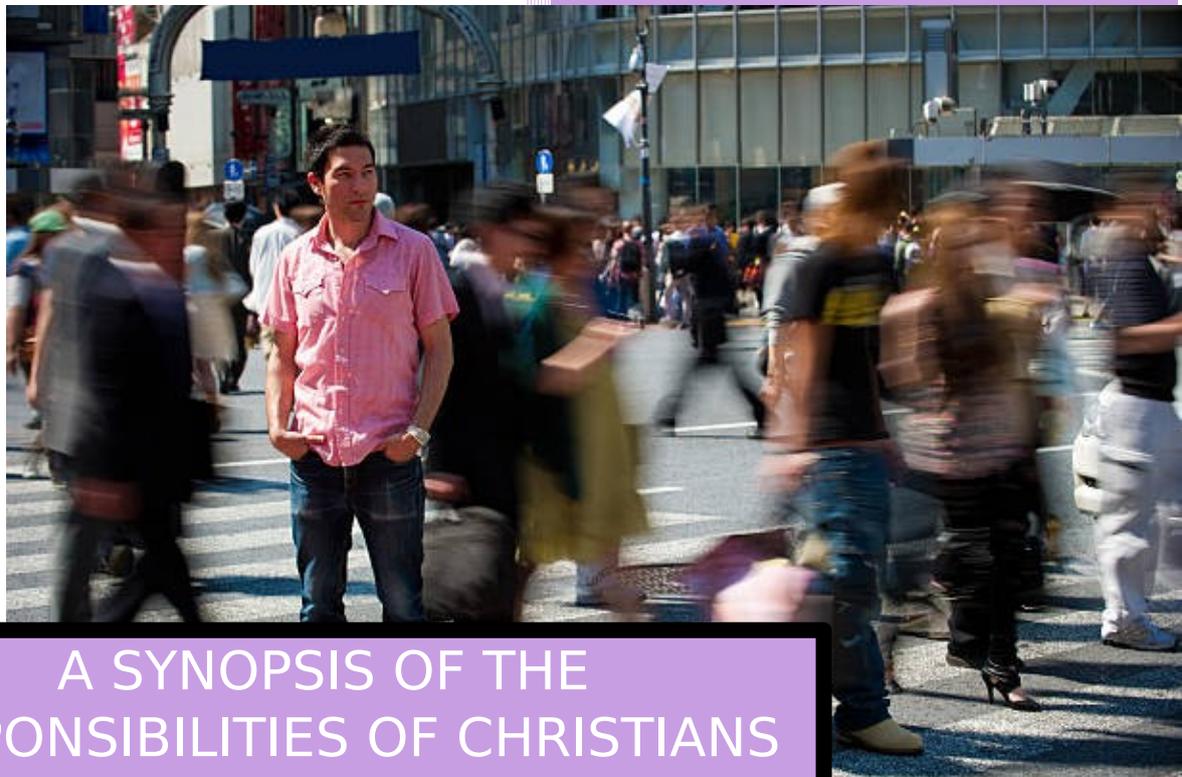


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BUSINESS LEADERSHIP SCHOOL 200
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THE ROLE OF A CHRISTIAN IN THE MARKETPLACE



A SYNOPSIS OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHRISTIANS

2 Kings 4

The story about the Widow and oil. Where she had to repay debt.
A remarkable story where God's purpose with the marketplace and
how transformation

MARKETPLACE

Introduction:

In this essay I will be discussing the important responsibility Christians have in the marketplace and the role we have to fulfill. To fully understand the impact of God's Kingdom in the marketplace, we must see and experience the Transformation when fulfilling the roles and responsibilities. It is of utmost importance that I request the readers to study and apply the word of God to experience the realm of the rule of God come to the commercial jurisdiction.

As Christians what is our purpose in business and how is that purpose fulfilled? Milton Friedman, an atheist secular economist and the person considered to be the father of modern-day economics, made the following statement: *"The only obligation of business is to make a profit."* From a Christian perspective this is not the total truth. Making a profit is part of the purpose, but not the whole truth. Our purpose overall in business is to glorify God. ¹

How do we glorify God in business?

Let's look at the role and responsibility of Christians in business, or differently stated, "The purpose of Business."

The role and responsibilities of Christians in business:

a. Evangelism

Sharing the Gospel in the marketplace does not have to be overwhelming. It is a way of living, changing your lifestyle. Nurture the relationship you build, for instance at work. The goal is not to share your faith, but rather to deepen the relationship and as the relationship evolves you can share your own journey to encourage, steward and lead your colleague.

b. Discipleship

¹ "So whatever you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).

A Christian's role in the marketplace is to display a different level of intentionality and productivity for the sake of discipleship. The work you do can display the way you honor God, your employer and your colleagues. It is important for us to imitate God at work. To reflect His character and to change the way we think.

c. Funding and supporting God's work

In BLS100 we learned that if God guides, He provides. So therefore if God sends us to do something, He shall provide for us to do it.²

d. Salaries - Supplying family needs.

We should make an honest living and provide for our families.³

e. Making a profit.

Be generous when you can, knowing you're glorying God in your business, and helping others in their time of need.⁴ This is contrary to what many people in business believe or teach. However making a profit is not the main goal, the main goal is to glorify God in all we do.

The marketplace is the place where we as Christians have the opportunity to be part of the start of something amazing. A great platform for Christians to minister in the field. The marketplace ranges from malls, to flea markets, going to the gas station, attending school events, at your place of employment etc. What makes the marketplace such a fantastic opportunity for Christians to work is, it is not the church, it has a huge variety of people, ranging from believers to non-believers, other beliefs or atheists. But that is not where it stops, you get to meet, work or disciple people at a neutral place, out of their comfort zone and also out of your comfort zone. The marketplace is the primary place for to minister and serve people.

In South Africa we have such a diverse population, we can work with different nations, different cultures and denominations. The amazing event where a Christian has the

² "Whatever you do, do it from the heart for the Lord and not for people. You know that you will receive an inheritance as a reward. You serve the Lord Christ." *The Good News: No matter what you do, you are using the gifts that the Lord gave you.* (Colossians 3:23-24)

³ *But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. (1 Timothy 5:8)*

⁴ *Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. (Philippians 2:4)*

opportunity to plant a seed in someone's life. The exciting moment where you can be used by God to deliver a prophetic word or a word of encouragement.

We all have a divine purpose that God has given us. God ordained each of us to do everlasting kingdom work. Each person has a testimony, a story that lead them to where they are today.

We live in a world full of pain, so much domestic violence, some living in a house with divorced parents, maybe the loss of a person that died and meant a great deal to them, substance abuse or even physical abuse.

Every person experienced pain and needs to heal from it. On the other side life can be challenging and going through it isolated can also destroy a person or the person can end up bitter.

Our existence and purpose in a nutshell involves working with people. We are here to have an impact on each other, to inspire each other, to help each other endure, to fellowship, to disciple and steward one another. In other words to bring glory to God, to get to know our identity in Christ and to conform to the image of God. Our purpose is to love God and to show the same love God gives us to others so that people can get to know Him.

We live in world that is one large chaotic rat race, everything is rushed and the compassion, the love and the care is missing. People are so involved with themselves that they live past the actual reality of life. They live past the ones they love, they lose their focus, miss their divine purpose because they are too busy with things that does not add value to their life. Electronics and technology has taken the main priority in people's lives. People have become so obsessed with themselves. If we could realize the great work we have, take the challenge and take the lead. Bring

back the love, the care and the compassion towards each other and to invest in each other. To start investing in our loved ones, make a ripple effect and let a lot of small acts make a change in our family's life as well as the world out there.

Families are so important to God. But nowadays there are so many broken families, so much pain, so much division, abandonment and no understanding. Families are no longer close knitted, invested in each other. Many times they are each just consumed by themselves and what is important to them. The love and compassion towards each other is so low or non-existing. Fathers in some cases are either not present, either at work or maybe divorced, mothers are consumed with juggling all and in the same time not doing anything at all. Parents have this enormous responsibility to lead, to disciple, to teach, to love and also leave a legacy for their children.

When we think of the work of a Christian we start by thinking of going to the usual Sunday gathering at church. But in *Mathew 28*⁵ God instructs us to go out and make disciples of all nations.

This means we need to leave our comfort zone, we need to go into towns, into places that is not the norm. Make an impact on the lives of people. We cannot simply stay in church and wait for people to come to church. We must make a difference in the lives of the nation and this won't happen with us staying inside the safe walls of the church. Going to church is extremely important to refuel, to plug in and to fellowship. But God wants us to step out, reach more people. These days less people are going to church, the word of God is not reaching everyone. But aside of this event if you have a look at the Bible, even Jesus worked in the marketplace, He went out to the nation. He saved so many people, He lead so many people to God. Because He went into the marketplace, He made a difference in people's lives. He made a stand, Jesus

⁵"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (*Mathew 28:19-20*)

made use of parable teachings. He ministered to everyone, this included people that would be considered as impure or not worthy of saving. Jesus met people at the food stalls, a lady at the well, He met Timothy at the taxing tables. He made a difference because he met people at their place of convenience. They didn't have their guard up, they didn't expect to be ministered in the marketplace.

God does not call the equipped and skilled. God calls you and He will equip you to have the right skills for the work you have to do in the marketplace. Each person has a unique set of skills and talents. All roles are important no matter the size of the task. The role or work might have a significant difference but is just as important as the other.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the marketplace is a place where we as Christians do everlasting Kingdom work, where we seek, spread the gospel and save the lost. If we do not complete this task, the gospel will be lost to a large amount of people in the marketplace. Our divine purpose and everything we learned would be in vain if we do not pursue what God has blessed us with.

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