



School of Business Leadership

GoBusiness100 Student Manual





GoBusiness100 Student Manual

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Welcome

Dear Students,

Welcome to the School of Business Leadership's GoBusiness100 Course, the first stage in this wild journey of being about our Father's business in the marketplace. These teachings are designed to prepare you for bringing real life to the workplace, as well as bring you to successful completion of the second-year course, GoBusiness200. You are now moving forward on your quest of learning how to lead people and build organizations God's way. That is what this school is all about.

The School of Business Leadership is a tool to help all of us who are on the path towards mastering certain skills, which Jesus requires of all leaders. These leadership skills include:

1. Building our relationships, lives, and ministries strategically.
2. Building organizations relationally.
3. Building "learning organizations" of people who are capable of deep learning and rapid adjustments to real life situations.

These skills are required to successfully navigate life and are applicable to the building of strong families, businesses, churches, civil governments, or any other successful organizational structures.

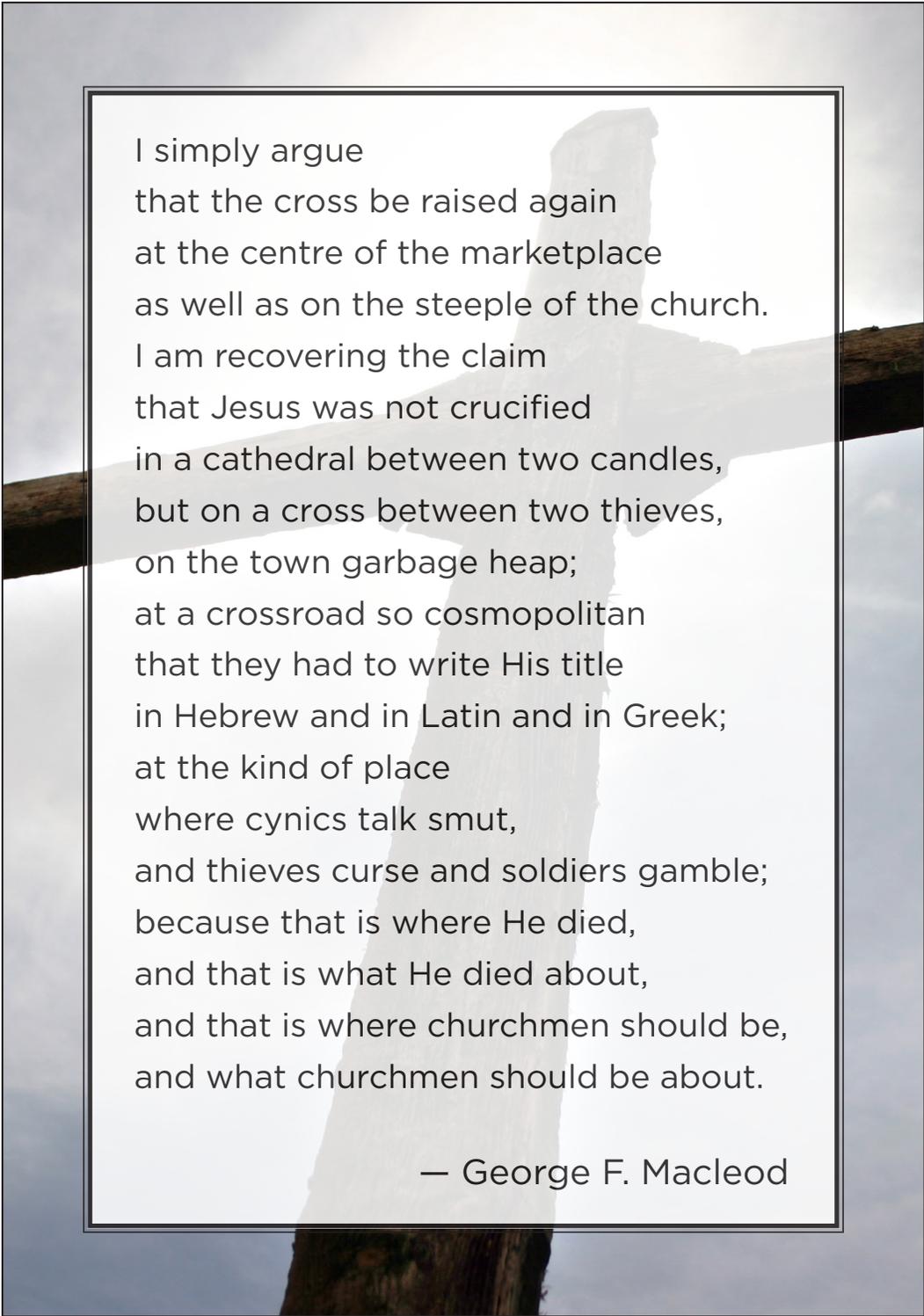
The School of Business Leadership, using these three foundational concepts (strategic building, building relationally, and building learning organizations) is unique. As you complete GoBusiness100 and apply yourself to GoBusiness200, become a course facilitator serving others, and study the graduate materials, you will become skilled in ways that few "experts" or MBA graduates in the world know anything about. Moreover, your marketplace skills will be available to serve others in ways that will be worth far more than however much "new money" these new skills have allowed you to accumulate.

Once again, welcome to the journey! Dig in. The ideas will change your mind; learning how to apply them will change your business; and living them out will help change your life and those you lead and love.

For His Kingdom,



Dennis T. Peacocke
Founder & President, GoStrategic



I simply argue
that the cross be raised again
at the centre of the marketplace
as well as on the steeple of the church.
I am recovering the claim
that Jesus was not crucified
in a cathedral between two candles,
but on a cross between two thieves,
on the town garbage heap;
at a crossroad so cosmopolitan
that they had to write His title
in Hebrew and in Latin and in Greek;
at the kind of place
where cynics talk smut,
and thieves curse and soldiers gamble;
because that is where He died,
and that is what He died about,
and that is where churchmen should be,
and what churchmen should be about.

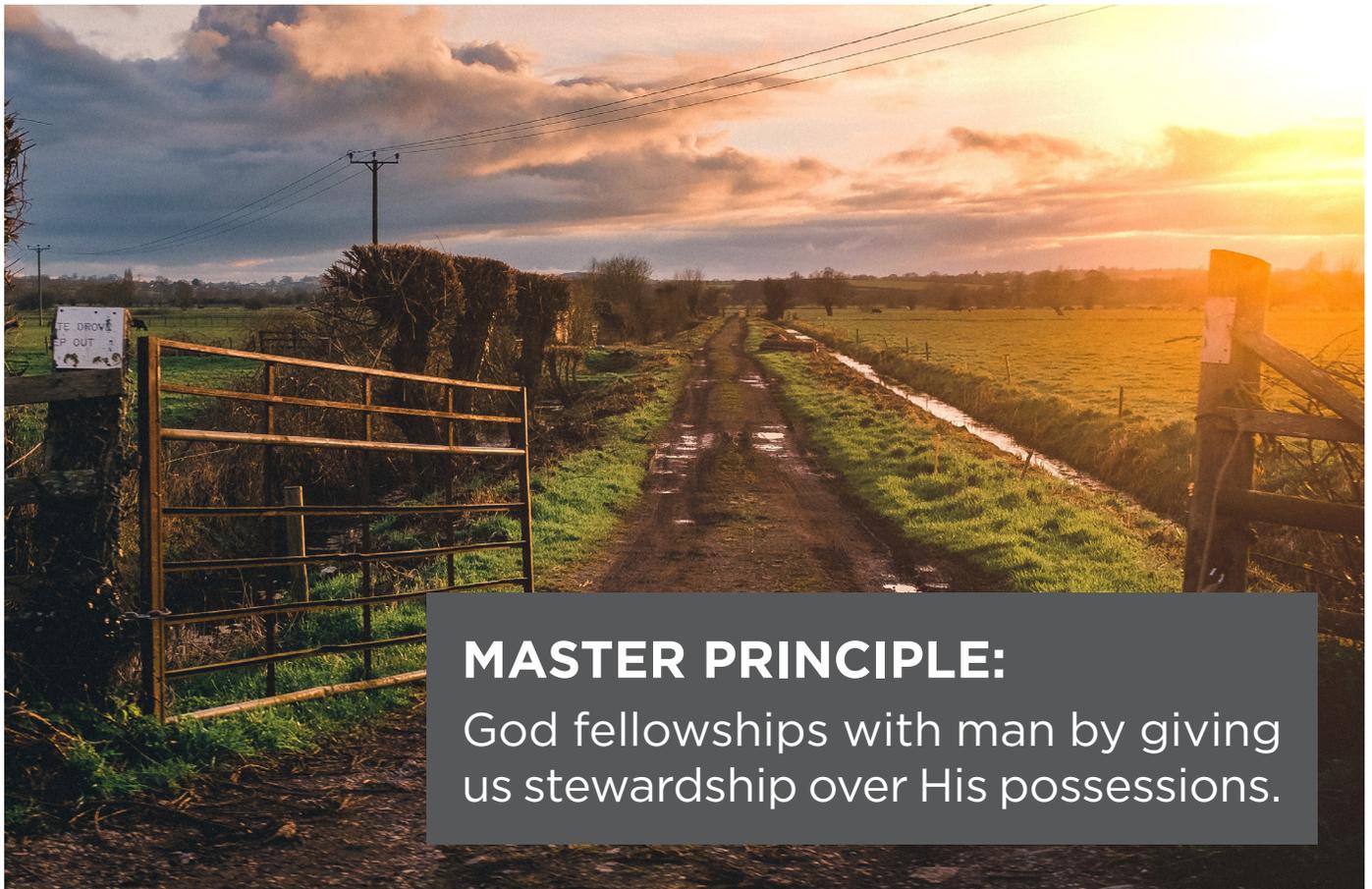
— George F. Macleod



GoBusiness100 | Intro Module 1

Called by God to Steward His Creation, Part I
(Excerpted from The Freedom Series)

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE



MASTER PRINCIPLE:

God fellowships with man by giving us stewardship over His possessions.

IDOLS OF THE CITY TO PULL DOWN:

- *Dealing with religious deception (Matthew 15:5-6).*
- *Christians are not empowered until they die.*
- *Work is a curse.*

THE TRUTH:

- *God wants to share His power with us now and prepare us for fellowship with Him and for increasing responsibility in the family business.*
- *Power sharing comes through incremental problem solving, not death.*
- *Work is a holy, everlasting calling.*

GoBusiness100 | Intro Module 1

Called by God to Steward His Creation, Part I

(Excerpted from The Freedom Series)

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

I. The principle of fellowship through building together:

- A. God brings His servants to maturity by making them His work partners (Genesis 1:26-28).
 - 1. Unity comes from sharing goals, responsibility, and time.
 - 2. God's original intent for man (fellowship through building together) has not changed. Sin did not catch God "sleeping" or alter His plans. God is a strategic thinker (Acts 2:23; Revelation 13:8; 17:8).
 - 3. Strategic thinking comes with maturity ("teleology" is the study of motives and goals).
 - a. Thinking from the end back to the beginning
 - b. Resource management planning (procurement, allocation, deployment)
 - c. Holding to your game plan under pressure (complexity is impossible without well-executed basics, e.g., "flying kicks")
- B. "Power" is sharing the knowledge, ability, and authority with God over some portion of His creation.
 - 1. God's destiny (Ephesians 1:18-23) is to expand His Kingdom through His family business.
 - 2. The training program for this expansion begins here on earth (Genesis 1:26-28; Matthew 11:28-30; Luke 19:13; Romans 8:17; Mark 10:29-30)
 - 3. Power is guarded by problems.
 - a. The tragedy of premature promotion or inheritance (The Prodigal Son: Luke 15:11-32).
 - b. Problems should draw courage, creativity, dependency, knowledge, patience, tenacity, and team work (i.e., "character") out of us.
 - c. Problems cleanse us from selfish ambition, presumption, and ignorance.
 - d. Power should be delegated in proportion to problem-solving abilities.
 - e. The Church will be cleansed (Ephesians 5:26) by problem solving.
 - f. Power is not given through the experience of "events," i.e., eating of the tree of knowledge (Genesis 3:3-5) or through death but rather as a consequence of incremental stewardship during life! (Revelation 2:26; Matthew 24:46-47; Luke 12:44; Revelation 19:16).

II. Work Is a holy, eternal calling:

- A. God first reveals Himself as Creator, Worker, and Entrepreneur.
 - 1. Work preceded sin and the Fall.
 - 2. Jesus taught that work is eternal (John 5:17, John 5:19-20).

- B. God is a Work Assigner, Replicator of Himself, Pattern Builder (vs. evolution), Rester, and Guardian of His creation (Genesis 1).
- C. The promise of a “work-free” heaven is a heresy.
 - 1. “Heaven is the ultimate weekend” vs. co-laboring with God (Ephesians 2:10).
 - 2. This heresy reveals our anti-work ethic. We are designed to put our lives into our work (excellence).
 - 3. The heresy makes work (business) carnal and “second class.” The deception of dualism (“good spirit” vs. “evil matter”) is designed to foil God’s maturity plan for His children and keep the earth under God’s enemies’ control.
 - 4. What God dislikes is not work but “unhired men” (Matthew 20:1-15).
- D. God has called us to work with Him in building character, skills, and relationships that will pass on to the next age.
 - 1. Obedient work (commissioned and approved by God) will transcend death (1 Corinthians 3:9-15).
 - 2. Possessions do not pass through death; character and skills do (Matthew 6:19-20).
 - a. Godly motives
 - b. Godly ethics
 - c. Proper recognition of spheres
 - d. Service orientation
 - e. Leadership skills
 - f. Stewardship skills
- E. A Christian’s vocation call may be different from his ecclesiastical call. Examples:
 - 1. The Apostle Paul:
 - a. Vocation: Tent making (Acts 18:3; 1 Thessalonians 2:9)
 - b. Ministry: Apostolic work
 - 2. The Apostle Peter:
 - a. United in one, i.e., “full time ecclesiastical work”

GoBusiness100 | Intro Module 1

Called by God to Steward His Creation, Part 1 (Excerpted from *The Freedom Series*)

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

Homework:

- 1. The primary way God fellowships with us is by working with Him.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

- 2. When you become very successful in your business, there may be a time when it is necessary and acceptable for you to put teamwork or some other master principle on hold for a while to keep up with the work.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

- 3. In business, we should give people power based on their potential.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

- 4. Empowerment comes from:**
 - a. An act
 - b. A position or title
 - c. A process

- 5. Why is Christianity responsible for much of the anti-work ethic in our culture?**

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Called by God to Steward His Creation, Part II
(Excerpted from *The Freedom Series*)

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE



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MASTER PRINCIPLE:

Servant leaders produce proprietors

IDOLS OF THE CITY TO PULL DOWN:

- Profit should be the primary goal of all businesses and business leaders.
- Capitalism is ethically inferior to socialism because it exploits people and things rather than caring for them (“utilitarianism” vs. “compassion”).

THE TRUTH:

- The primary goal of business should be the maturation of people in terms of creativity, stewardship, and proprietorial participation in their work.
- Neither “capitalism” nor “socialism” should be a Christian’s economic model. The believer’s economic model should be based on Scripture, not worldly economic categorizations.

GoBusiness100 | Intro Module 2

Called by God to Steward His Creation, Part II

(Excerpted from *The Freedom Series*)

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

I. Servant leadership and proprietorship:

- A. Man is created in God's image and likeness (Genesis 1:26-28) and is commissioned by God to steward His creation. Therefore, man's goal must be to imitate the goals and purposes of his Creator. Everyone is a "businessman"; that is, called to be fruitful (John 15:12), and properly steward personal possession as God does His.
 - 1. God's goal, as seen in Session Two, is to bring us into fellowship with Himself by sharing the management of His creation with us.
 - 2. Godly leadership, in business or elsewhere, has one primary serving goal: to draw others into their full potentiality in God (Luke 22:24-26).
- B. God's design for individuals, families, churches, businesses and nations must determine how wise leaders govern (Philippians 3:12; Acts 17:26) by helping them as closely as is possible into conformity with divine design.
 - 1. Nothing that is out of order (operating contrary to) can be fulfilled or prosper in the long run.
 - 2. The godly leader must diligently seek out God's design for people and situations and steward them accordingly by bringing them as closely as is possible into conformity with divine design.
 - 3. This leadership process involves identifying motivation, skills, goals, and hindrances to growth (sin) ("A plan in the heart of a man is like deep water, but a man of understanding draws it out" -Proverbs 20:5)
 - 4. God's method of preparing us for co-ruling with Him (Galatians 3:24-4:8) is to school us by designed pressure and problems into skillful, productive managers of what He has entrusted to us (Luke 16:10-12).
- C. God's priorities: profit or a proprietorial spirit?
 - 1. Capitalism's primary goal is usually deemed to be profit.
 - 2. A person or enterprise can be "profitable" and yet be immoral, utilitarian, and totally out of God's will. Example: "rich" drug dealers (Psalm 37:1; Psalm 73:3).
 - 3. God has shown us by His own leadership example that leaders are called to draw people into a proprietorial spirit in order to maximize their maturity.
 - a. Ownership produces involvement, self-interest, and "Beulah" (married to the land—Isaiah 62:4).
 - b. Consider the differences between a proprietor and worker: The "work-station" mentality vs. picking up papers that are on your floor.
 - c. The ability in people to produce increase is closely tied to developing self-worth (a leader's goal); self-worth releases creativity and ability to risk.
 - d. Good leaders produce proprietors, and proprietors are creative, fulfilled, and fruitful.

II. Analyzing the world's economic ethics:

A. Accusations against capitalism:

1. It is profit-oriented, not people-oriented (utilitarian); i.e., it uses people.
2. It alienates man from his labor by objectifying labor into segregated production functions that are menial and repetitive.

B. Accusations against socialism:

1. It sacrifices the virtues of personal reward for creative labor, risk, and stewardship on the altar of economic security.
2. It encourages covetousness against those who succeed beyond the norm (“I should have what you have”).
3. It encourages envy (“Why do you have more than I do?”).
4. It makes the prosperous “guilty” for their success.
5. It promotes civil theft through taxation designed to make everyone equal.
6. It destroys family inheritance through “leveling” taxation policies.

C. What biblical principles motivate the rebuilders?

1. Leadership that is servant-oriented.
2. Economic relationships that encourage virtue and discourage indolence should be properly rewarded. Businesses that maximize the proprietorial spirit, creativity, and maturation of the participants.

GoBusiness100 | Intro Module 3

Private Property: Cornerstone of Freedom
(Excerpted from *The Freedom Series*)

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE



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MASTER PRINCIPLE:

Lasting wealth is built generationally through the wise stewardship of private property.

IDOLS OF THE CITY TO PULL DOWN:

- *Private property is a very limited right that is subject to the civil government.*
- *Because life is short, people should maximize their pleasure and profit.*

THE TRUTH:

- *Private property is essential to both personal and societal maturity.*
- *Private property belongs to those who lawfully own it.*
- *Wise stewardship over property operates generationally rather than short-run.*

GoBusiness100 | Intro Module 3

Private Property: Cornerstone of Freedom

(Excerpted from *The Freedom Series*)

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

I. Private property, maturity, and generational transfer:

- A. Private property is essential to personal and societal maturity.
1. God owns all land (Psalm 24:1) which is why property tax is blasphemous. God has given it to nations (Acts 17:26) and families (Leviticus 25, Leviticus 27:24).
 2. Man will be judged for his stewardship of God's possessions (all inclusive) beginning with the care of his body (1 Corinthians 3:17).
 3. Stewardship over that "property" entrusted to us forms an essential part of our training/evaluation/maturity program under God:
 - a. God is looking for "fruit" (increase in the long run) (John 15:16; Luke 19:11-21).
 - b. God entrusts us with caring for natural things before spiritual things (Luke 16:10-12).
 - c. God gives care over greater things based on our care of lesser things.
 - d. Jesus gives us a superb example of His concern for stewardship in John 17.
 4. Since personal stewardship presupposes the personal management of property entrusted to you, values undercutting private property will produce immaturity and debt.
 - a. That which is owned by everybody is owned by nobody.
 - b. Examples:
 - i. Collectivized agriculture (Pilgrims, Africa)
 - i. The Brooklyn housing program
 5. There is no biblical injunctive for civil government owning land (Eminent Domain). Taxing the land leads to civil tyranny of all land use (1 Samuel 8:14).
- B. Private property (wealth) and derived economic blessing is built on the family unit.
1. God's blessing plan for the nations (Jesus) is given to them from Father's family base. Blessing comes from obedient families (Genesis 12:3; Genesis 18:18-19; Acts 3:25).
 2. Good family law, therefore, is good economic law since society is made up of families.
 3. In the long run, societal wealth can be predicted by a nation's laws and trends of:
 - a. Divorce and illegitimacy
 - b. Abortion
 - c. Pornography consumption
 - d. Debt-equity corporate structures
 - e. Personal savings rate
 - f. Civic debt
 - g. Nonreplenishable resource consumption

4. Lasting wealth is multi-generational and long-run rather than short-run consumption-oriented.
 - a. God is the God of “Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob” (three generational principle).
 - b. The “curse of poverty” is single generational wealth (selfishness vs. heritage—Malachi 4:4-6; parental savings—2 Corinthians 12:14)
 - c. Inheritance taxes and all anti-family practices produce poverty (Matthew 5:45—God’s laws are universal.)

Examples:	Causes of Poverty:
Family-based wealth in Japan	Sin
Amazon rainforests	Indolence
Divorce	Covenant breaking
Debt	Disobedience
Dividends vs. R&D, market share	Pagan worship

- d. People, companies, and nations must be generationally driven by investments not consumption- or debt-driven. J. M. Keynes (our economic system’s father) was not a family man.

II. Major principles of wise stewardship based on generational building:

- A. Practicing and instilling the principle of stewardship over only what we currently have leads to increasing irresponsibility in the future. (Matthew 13:12—a twisted “Robin Hood Mentality”: Steal from tomorrow to pay for today.)
 1. Wealth gained quickly is not kept (Proverbs 21:20) because the skill base doesn’t undergird it to steward it.
 2. Value is a function of the sacrifice given over time.
- B. Christ’s last act before death was to arrange for the care of His family (Mary—John 19:26-27).
 1. Investing in relationships is the key to wealth since it promotes covenantal response (self-government) rather than short-run consumption.
 2. Godly families pass on the skills of stewardship as the primary guarantee of success (character skills) more than “things” or money.

GoBusiness100 | Intro Module 4

The Inheritance of the Heart

(Excerpted from the *Creating Wealth* series)

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE



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EPHESIANS 1:18-23

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

GoBusiness100 | Intro Module 4

The Inheritance of the Heart (Excerpted from the *Creating Wealth* series)

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

Based on Ephesians 1:18-23

I. What are the four major components of receiving someone's heart?

A. They are:

1. How they think—that is, their worldview (Christian worldview).
2. How they relate to you—that is, their way (building relationally).
3. How they fellowship or co-labor (rulership training).
4. How they set and achieve their goals and values (strategic living).

B. God's goals for us are:

1. That we would inherit His heart.
2. That we would pass on His heart to others and share in Him together.

II. How to break the curse of single-generational living:

A. Let us define it first:

1. Self-centeredness:
2. Living your life so that its goals and purposes basically die with you.
3. Smallness of vision:
4. Setting life goals that will be accomplished through you.

B. Let's see what Scripture says about this type of life:

1. Malachi 4:4-6: The curse echoing across time.
2. Ecclesiastes 2:18-21: The cry of ultimate vanity.

C. Questions then arise from this:

1. Why work hard if it will be wasted or turned against your life values?
2. Why pay teachers to destroy your input into your children?
 - a. Is your vision a single-lifetime work?

D. Let us describe some of the lies which perpetrate single-generational living in our personal lives, families, churches, businesses, and even our nation. Start by reading John 5:17, 19 and 29-30.

1. You must discover your own truth.
2. We can't learn from others' testimonies.
 - a. We need to experience something first to know if it is for us.
3. You must set your own vision.
 - a. You need "fresh vision" vs. implementing your individuality off the sovereignty of God's choice of the builder.

- b. Every house is built by someone (Hebrews 3:4).
- 4. You need to get out from under your parents' influence.
 - a. Seek a new profession.
 - b. You can't grow in their shadow.

GoBusiness100 | Intro Module 4

The Inheritance of the Heart (Excerpted from the *Creating Wealth* series)

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

Homework:

- 1. God's main goals for us are that we would inherit His heart and pass on His heart to others and share in Him together.**
 - a. True
 - b. False
- 2. Explain 2-3 concepts you learned from this lesson; for each one, name the spheres to which they are most applicable (e.g., self, family, community, church, business/marketplace, nation).**
- 3. Think about then explain how you could personally apply or activate a concept or truth from this lesson to your life.**



GoBusiness100 | Intro Module 5

Building Spiritual & Organizational Dynasties
(Excerpted from the *Creating Wealth* series)

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE



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1 CORINTHIANS 3:13

But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value.

GoBusiness100 | Intro Module 5

Building Spiritual & Organizational Dynasties

(Excerpted from the *Creating Wealth* series)

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

I. Is this organization sovereignly ordained by God or just a “man’s thing?”

- A. How do we know?
- B. How do we serve it either way?
- C. What are God’s purposes for it?
- D. How can each generation best serve it?

II. Have we dealt with the curses of:

- A. Absalom? (2 Samuel. 18:18)
- B. Unprepared sons? (nonstrategic leaders)
- C. Fathers who don’t reveal their hearts? (1 John 1:7)
- D. The prodigal’s demands? (Luke 15:11-32)
- E. Building on slaves not sons?

GoBusiness100 | Intro Module 5

Building Spiritual & Organizational Dynasties

(Excerpted from the *Creating Wealth* series)

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

Homework:

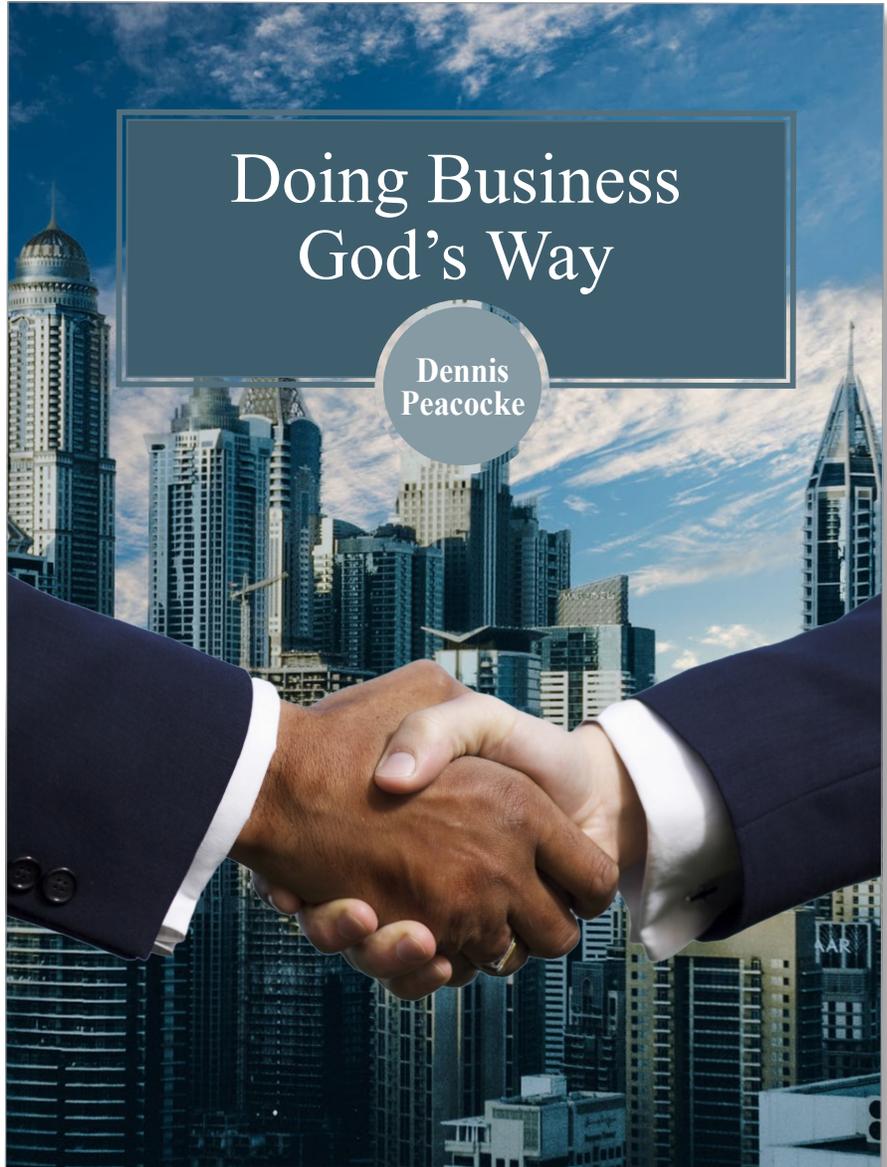
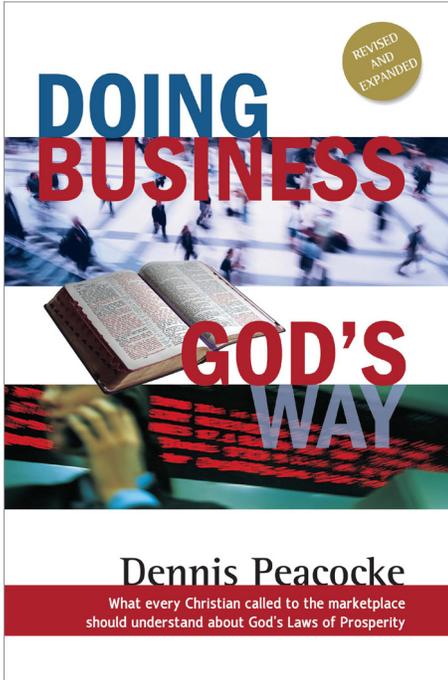
- 1. The keys to prosperity and generational wealth lay in partnering with God on eternal goals and inheriting and passing on His heart.**
 - a. True
 - b. False
- 2. Explain 2-3 concepts you learned from this lesson; for each one, name the spheres to which they are most applicable (e.g., self, family, community, church, business/marketplace, nation).**

- 3. Think about then explain how you could personally apply or activate a concept or truth from this lesson to your life.**

GoBusiness100 | Lessons 1-12

Doing Business God's Way

Please refer to your *Doing Business God's Way* book/audiobook and student workbook



GoBusiness100 | Lesson 13

The Mind Justifies What the Heart Has Chosen

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE



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THIS LESSON FOCUSES ON presuppositional thinking, the foundation of all worldview and philosophy.
THIS LESSON IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE without an understanding of presuppositional thinking, it is impossible to have a well-thought-out worldview.

CASE STUDY:

You have the opportunity at your church to teach a lesson in a class for new believers. During the lesson, a student states he doesn't think God cares what we believe, as long as we love Him.

CASE STUDY REFLECTIONS:

What do you feel is at the root of a statement like this? Why is what we believe important to God?

MAKE YOUR CASE:

Did you explain that your heart determines what you believe as much as it determines what you love?

GoBusiness100 | Lesson 13

The Mind Justifies What the Heart Has Chosen

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

I. The mind justifies what the heart has chosen:

- A. John 3:19-21: *This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone who does evil hates the Light and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. 21 But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.*
1. A heart toward self.
 2. A heart toward God.
- B. Each heart has an agenda to reinforce its own position.

Truth is an affair of the heart more than an affair of the head.

Define a Term:

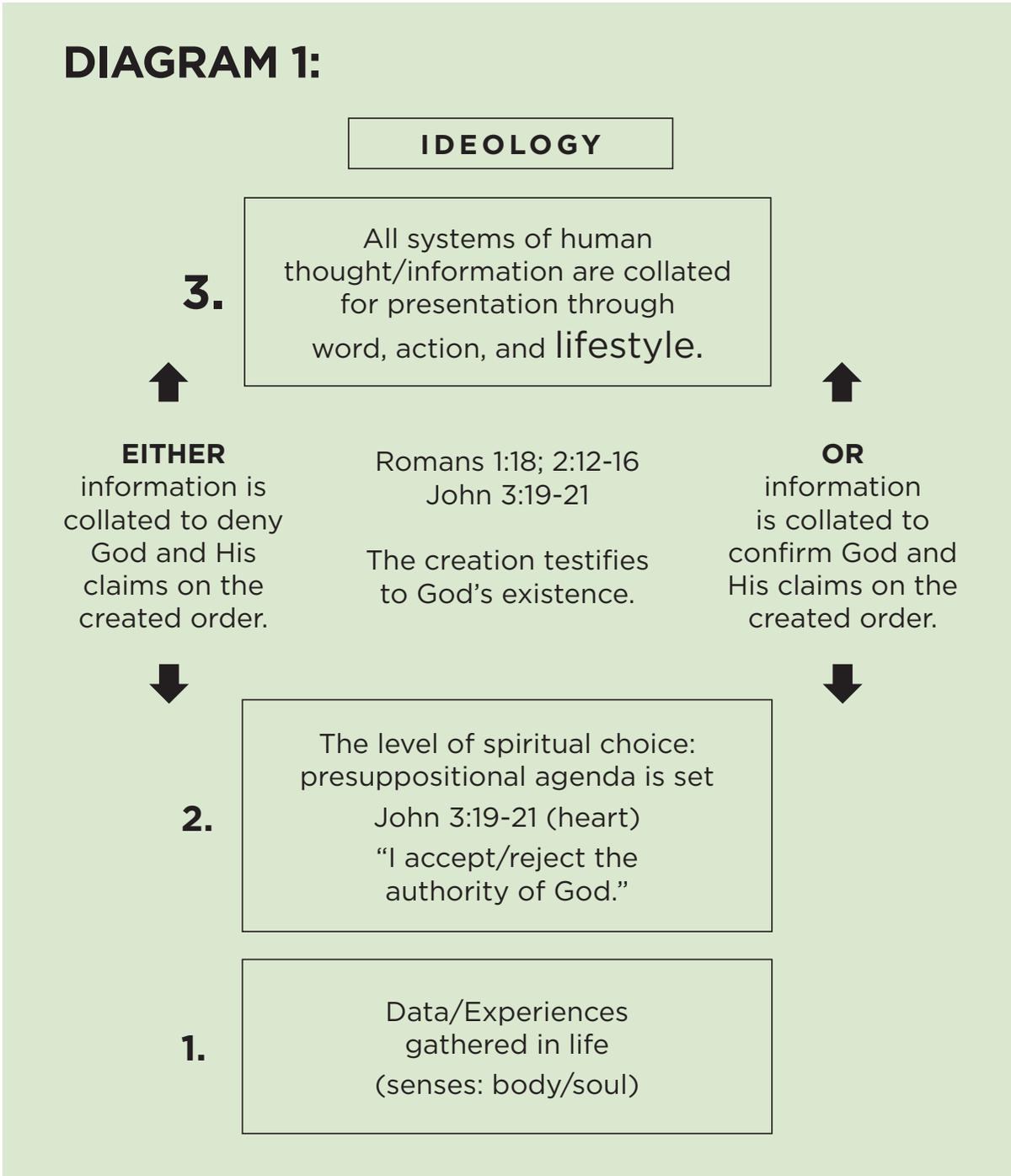
CULTURE: *The application of labour or other means to improve good qualities in, or growth; as the culture of the mind; the culture of virtue. (Webster's 1828)*

II. PRESUPPOSITIONS are the spiritual (or heart) agendas, conscious or unconscious, by which man orders his assumptions about himself and his environment:

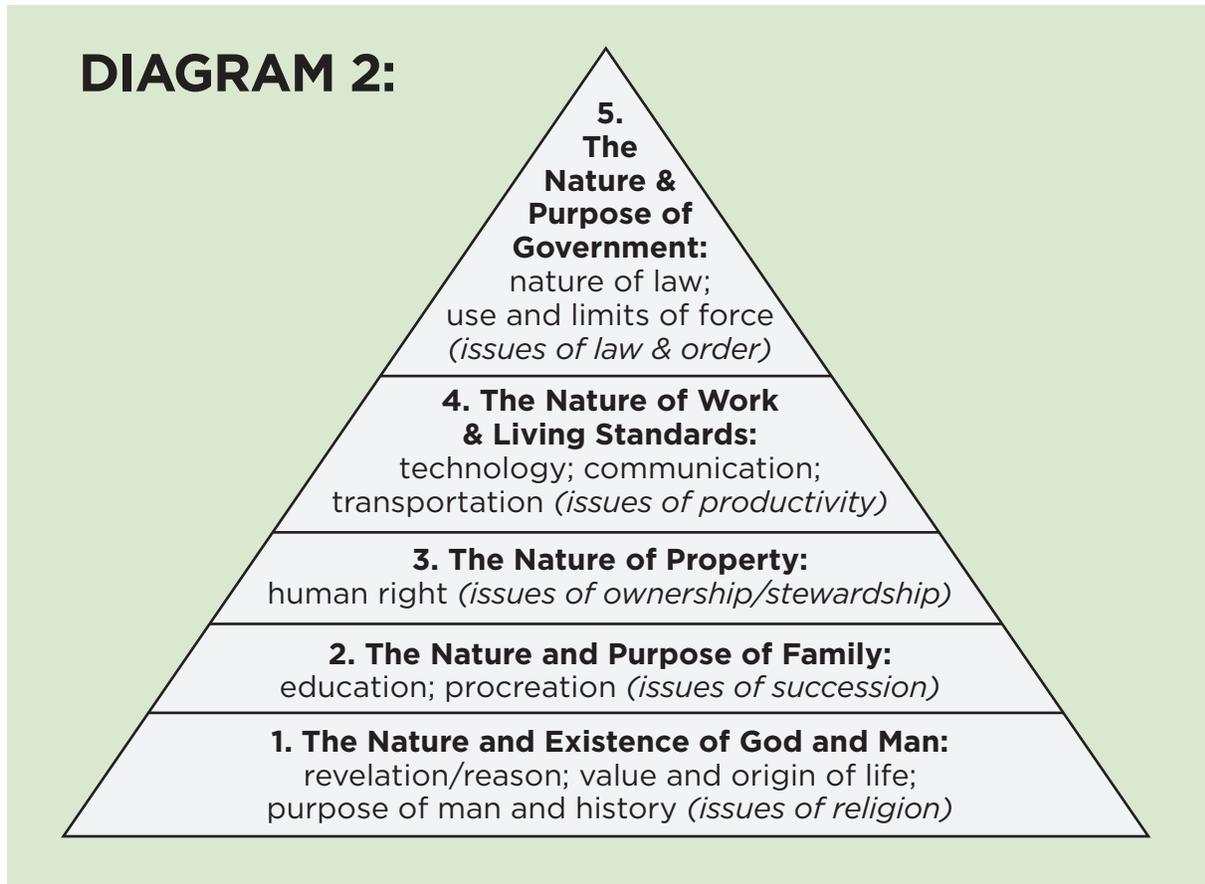
- A. All human studies and classifications of knowledge are based on assumptions. These assumptions are called presuppositions.
- B. Your presuppositions determine four things:
1. How you gather information.
 2. How information is analyzed.
 3. How information is presented.
 4. How you want the information used.
- C. All modern culture and ideologies are built on presuppositions.
- D. All clear thinking is based on identifying the presuppositions of thought which are applicable.

The purpose of my knowledge is to serve God, to worship Him, and to know Him.

III. Diagram 1: Ideology:

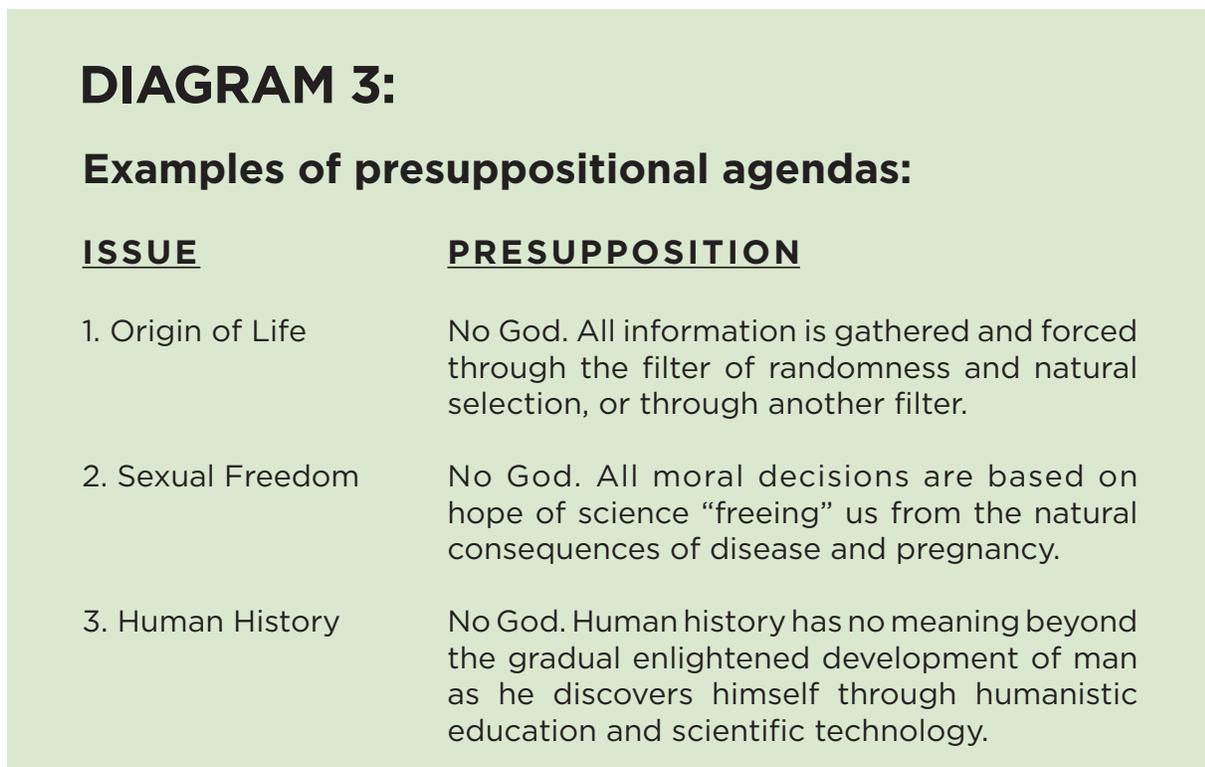


IV. Diagram 2: The Five Basic Building Blocks of Man's Reality:



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V. Diagram 3: Examples of Presuppositional Agendas:



VI. Diagram 4: The Two Trees in the Garden:

DIAGRAM 4:

The Two Trees in the Garden

The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil

INDEPENDENCE:

*I will experience reality independent of God.
(Humanism)*

I will evaluate for myself what to do with my life.

*I will order my "knowledge" so as to
justify my choices.*

The Tree of Life

DEPENDENCE:

*I will submit my life and learning experiences
to the One who made me.*

I will not evaluate God, but rather trust Him.

*I will order my knowledge by His revealed will
and trust Him relationally to bring me into
His fullest fellowship.*

Memory Verse:

"He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come into the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

—John 3:18-21 (NKJV)

GoBusiness100 | Lesson 13

The Mind Justifies What the Heart Has Chosen

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

Homework:

- 1. In your own words, explain what a presupposition is and give an example.**
- 2. What non-Christian group of people are you aware of who know what they believe at a presuppositional level and are very conscious of spreading their worldview?**
- 3. Why are people fearful of wrestling with issues at a presuppositional level?**
- 4. List the five building blocks of man's reality and next to each one, place a current event or issue which relates to it.**

Listening Test:

1. **There is a difference between your brain and your mind.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

2. **People who worship reason and truth have their mind as the source of their agenda.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

3. **Your _____ determine(s) how you gather, analyze, present and use information.**
 - a. will
 - b. heart
 - c. presuppositions

4. **Your first private property is _____**
 - a. your savings
 - b. your conscience
 - c. home ownership

GoBusiness100 | Lesson 14

Worldview in a Nutshell: The Three Root Presuppositions

BY KATHERINE GALLAGHER



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THIS LESSON FOCUSES ON why learning to think presuppositionally is such a powerful tool. Specifically, it will introduce the importance of our presuppositions about the nature of God, man, and truth.

THIS LESSON IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE If we are going to become those who can actively and effectively work with the Holy Spirit to impact lives and situations, the ability to discern and address issues at a heart level is essential.

CASE STUDY:

You're talking with a friend who is struggling with the "tolerance and sensitivity training" in which she is required to participate at work. "I know that much of what they are teaching is really important, however, everything about the way they are presenting the material and why they are making such a big emphasis on this feels wrong to me."

CASE STUDY REFLECTIONS:

If you were to speculate, why do you think your friend feels uncomfortable with this training? What advice or perspective might you share regarding this situation?

MAKE YOUR CASE:

What "foundation" is the exaltation of tolerance built upon?

GoBusiness100 | Lesson 14

Worldview in a Nutshell: The Three Root Presuppositions

BY KATHERINE GALLAGHER

I. What is worldview, and why is it important?

Worldview definition: The assumptions (or presuppositions) we make that determine our view of reality (see [Matthew 7:24-27](#)).

A. Getting to the heart of the matter.

1. The mind justifies what the heart has chosen.
2. The goal of presuppositional thinking is to reach the heart level.

Because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools.

—[Romans 1:21-22](#)

**If you can get
someone's
heart, you can
make a path
for the Holy
Spirit to work.**

B. We live our lives and make decisions based on our underlying presuppositions, whether consciously or unconsciously. These choices affect our life and our lifestyle.

1. Convincing takes place at the head level and cannot produce lasting change.
2. Conviction takes place at the heart level and paves the way for genuine transformation (see [John 16:8-15](#)).
3. We must learn how to work with the Holy Spirit in the process of conviction.

C. The question is not, “Are you living by Faith?”, but rather, “By what faith?”

1. Examples of presuppositional bias can be seen in the media, in conversations with others, in legislation, etc.

Define a Term:

CONVICTION *The act of convincing of sin or sinfulness; the state of being convinced or convicted by conscience; the state of being sensible of guilt; the act of convincing of error; confutation; the act of compelling one to acknowledge his error, or the truth of what is alleged. (Webster's 1828)*

II. The three root presuppositions concerning the nature of GOD, MAN, and TRUTH:

A. Basic presuppositional questions about the nature of GOD:

1. *Is He or isn't He?*
2. *What is He like?*

B. Basic presuppositional questions about the nature of MAN:

1. *Basically good or fallen?*

2. *Where does he get his value from?*
 3. *Does he have purpose?*
 4. *What is he made of (body/soul/spirit)?*
- C. Basic presuppositional questions about the nature of TRUTH:
1. *Objective or subjective?*
 2. *Relative or absolute?*
 3. *Knowable or unknowable?*

We need to learn how to ask the questions that help us address the underlying assumptions.

III. The worldview journey:

- A. We begin our journey as those who are influenced (the lens of fallen human nature). Most people never move beyond being influenced.
- B. When we are intercepted by the Gospel, the lens of fallenness is replaced with the lens of Christ—we are not dualists!
- C. We must then move into integration, learning how to think (not what).
And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. —Romans 12:2
- D. Lastly, we become an influencer.
And Jesus spoke to them saying: “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you.” —Matthew 28:18-20

IV. Worldview is a process of perspective:

- A. Do you understand non-biblical worldviews?
 1. Leaders know what they believe and why they believe it, and they know what they don't believe and why they don't believe it. This helps guard us from deception (we truly own our beliefs).
It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it. —Aristotle
 2. In dealing with the worldview of others: evangelistically, you want them convicted, not convinced.

V. The war for Worldview: Worldview is fought on three levels:

- A. The presuppositional (heart)
- B. The evidential (mind)
- C. The applicational (actions)

Memory Verse:

“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.”

—[Matthew 7:24-25](#)

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Worldview in a Nutshell: The Three Root Presuppositions

BY KATHERINE GALLAGHER

Homework:

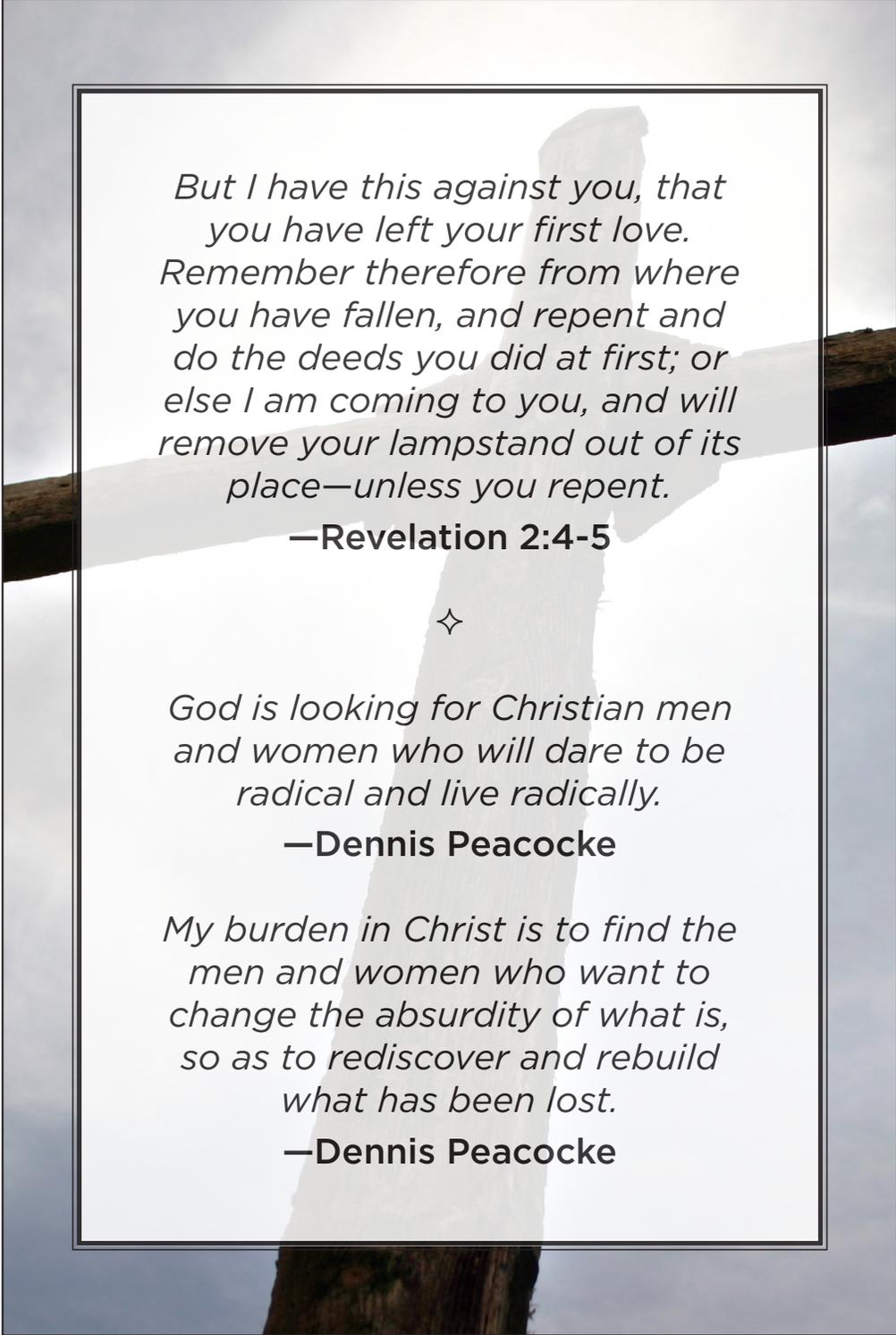
- 1. Why do you suppose the majority of Christians have not been taught how to think presuppositionally?**
- 2. In your own words, explain the difference between convincing and conviction.**
- 3. Pick a current event or issue in the news and identify one of the important presuppositions that is involved.**

Listening Test:

- 1. Most people are very aware of their presuppositions.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

- 2. You automatically receive a clear Christian worldview when you get saved.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

- 3. _____ takes place at the heart level.**
 - a. Discipline
 - b. Determination
 - c. Conviction



*But I have this against you, that
you have left your first love.
Remember therefore from where
you have fallen, and repent and
do the deeds you did at first; or
else I am coming to you, and will
remove your lampstand out of its
place—unless you repent.*

—Revelation 2:4-5

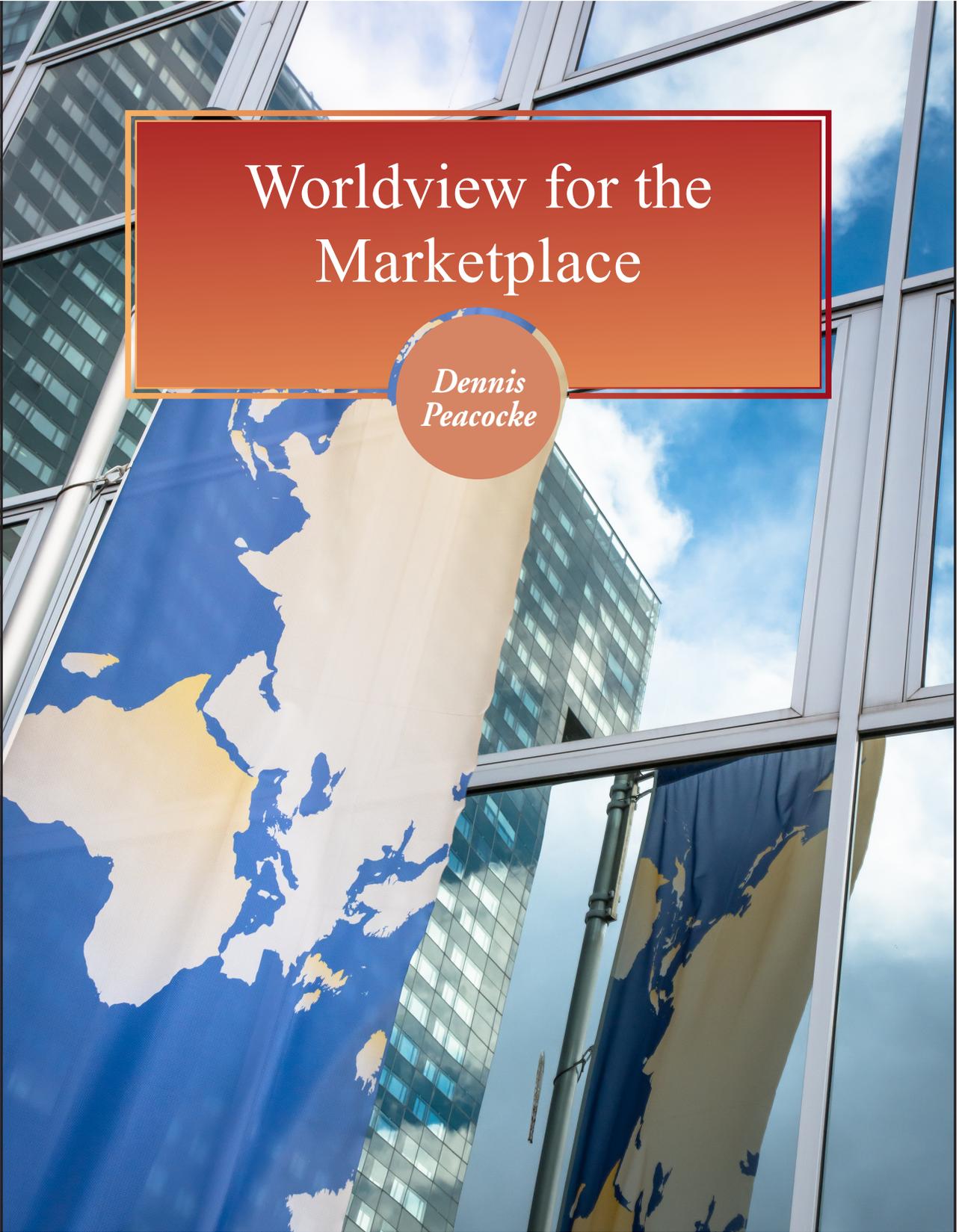


*God is looking for Christian men
and women who will dare to be
radical and live radically.*

—Dennis Peacocke

*My burden in Christ is to find the
men and women who want to
change the absurdity of what is,
so as to rediscover and rebuild
what has been lost.*

—Dennis Peacocke



Worldview for the Marketplace

Dennis Peacocke

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You are called to co-manage God's creation in Christ

Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. —Romans 8:17

WORLDVIEW FOR THE MARKETPLACE MASTER PRINCIPLES

#	<i>Seeing the power of...</i>	<i>Through a Christian Worldview...</i> TEACHING TITLE:	<i>As we apply God's building principles...</i> MASTER PRINCIPLE:	<i>With the strength of a threefold cord</i> (Ecclesiastes 4:12)
1.	God in the "now"	Glorifying God in the War Between Two Seeds	Salvation opens the door to living and building in God's eternal Kingdom	R E V E L A T I O N
2.	Flowing with divine order	Building on Divine Law	We must discover and build upon God's master principles of life and structure	
3.	Ideas moving things	Getting Free from Pharaoh's Propaganda Machines	Ideas and actions produce economic consequences	
4.	Strategic planning (revelation)	Living and Working Strategically	Work is a holy and everlasting calling in God	
5.	Faith: no risk, no reward	The Power of Obedient Faith	The possibility of failure is essential to human growth	
6.	Love in action	Mediating Grace	We grow in God by caring for people and things	R E L A T I O N S H I P
7.	Teamwork (Relationships)	Jurisdictions, Authority, and Proprietorship: Understanding the Nature of a Winning Team	Functioning biblical government is essential for lasting productivity	
8.	Generational transfer	How Big Is Your Vision?	All lasting wealth comes through the family unit and is built generationally	
9.	Stewardship	God Loans, Transfers, and Takes Away	God is the Author and Creator of all private property	S T E W A R D S H I P
10.	The value of service	Where is the Value?	Service is the foundation of every successful ministry	
11.	Obedience-based supply	The Economics of Obedience and Boundaries	God pays for what He orders	
12.	Uniqueness, justice, empowerment	The Beauty of Justice	Man is not equal, and economic redistribution cannot make equal what God has made unique	

Worldview for the Marketplace: Audio 1

Glorifying God in the War Between Two Seeds

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE | THREEFOLD CORD: REVELATION



KEY CONCEPTS:

The recognition of seduction and the establishment of a godly, personal mission with ongoing alignment.

1. We are saved to serve God and glorify Him in His Kingdom both now and in eternity.
2. When we “exodus” from Egypt, we begin the process of getting Egypt out of us, especially in the ways we think and reason.
3. As we discover the power of paradigms and presuppositions, we come to understand the saying, “the mind justifies what the heart has chosen.”
4. In our struggle for renewal, we experience the reality of “the war between two seeds.”

MARKETPLACE MINISTRY APPLICATION:

The definition of our mission and the need for constant alignment with godly principles and strategy.

1. Our business ministry must align itself by glorifying God now, not glorifying ourselves or withdrawing from the world. Staying in the “now” deals with our work habits.
2. The world system's thinking will sabotage us by trapping us in its ways or by telling us that the marketplace means nothing to God.
3. We must keep our hearts in God's hands so as to keep our lives free from self-deception. Either the pressures from our life struggles or the deceptions of false success can lead us to lose our focus on expanding God's Kingdom on earth.

GoBusiness100 | Lesson 15

Worldview for the Marketplace: Audio 1

Glorifying God in the War Between Two Seeds

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

Key Scriptures: Genesis 3:15; Deuteronomy 28:1-14; Psalm 24:1; 86:11; 89:14; 97:7; 110; Proverbs 11:14; Ecclesiastes 4:12; Matthew 13:22-30; 16:18-19; 28:18-20; Luke 9:62; 19:13; John 3:3-19; 7:17; 8:32; 14:6; 16:7-15; 17:15; 18:36; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 3:9-15; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Colossians 1:12-13; Hebrews 5:12-14; Revelation 19:7

I. Master Principle #1: Salvation opens the door to living and building in God's eternal Kingdom.

- A. This lesson deals with two colossally important issues:
 - 1. It addresses the question of what believers are to do on the earth once they are saved.
 - 2. It deals with critical issues surrounding the building of a truly Christian worldview and lifestyle, the opposition we face in doing so, and how to measure "success."
- B. Therefore, this lesson lays the foundation for the remainder of all that we will teach in this seminar and introduces many critical concepts.
 - 1. It will answer the question, "What is the game about?"
 - 2. It will help us connect salvation to God's Kingdom and how our ministry in the world and in the workplace relates to glorifying God.

II. We are saved to serve God and glorify Him in His Kingdom both now and in eternity (Genesis 3:15; Matthew 16:18-19; John 3:3-5,12, 17:15; Colossians 1:12,13).

- A. When we are "born again" and empowered by "water and the Spirit" (John 3:3, 5), Christ does so to transfer us into the Kingdom of God (Colossians 1:12). Salvation is not about heaven; it is about living in the presence of God from now on (John 3:12).
 - 1. The reality of our new birth is found in living in the presence of God's Spirit now. This is called the eminence of God (He is also transcendent, above and over His creation). Faith is always exercised in the "now" of God's Kingdom. The "now" is entered by seeing through our renewed mind's eye (Romans 12:1-2).
 - 2. When we are in the "now," we experience the joy of being in the "one." The game is living there!
- B. When we are born into His Kingdom, we enter the possibility of doing eternal work now.
 - 1. Paul notes in 1 Corinthians 3:9-15 that our work will be judged by the testing fires of trials and death. Eternal work will pass through trials and death.
 - 2. "The game" is about building life skills in ourselves and others that God will use in eternity as He continues building His strategic Kingdom.
- C. These life skills can be broken down into a threefold cord (Ecclesiastes 4:12) of epistemological (how we learn) simplicity.

1. Revelational identity: Who am I in Christ? What am I to do? How will I do it? My revelation is my identity: It will stand up to the tests of life.
2. Relational identity: To whom am I joined (Ephesians 4:16)? How will we build together? How do I live in community and think relationally (tree of life)?
3. Stewardship skills: Learning to bring God’s care, life, and increase to all He has given me to care for (people and things).

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that when we are saved, we are to stop investing in ourselves and our creative energies in this current world and, instead, to prepare for Christ’s return and to go to heaven.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, our business ministry must align itself with glorifying God now, not glorifying ourselves or withdrawing from the world. Staying in the “now” deals with our work habits.

III. When we exodus from Egypt, we begin the process of getting Egypt out of us, especially in the ways we think and reason (Luke 19:13; Romans 12:1-2).

- A. Most secular schools in Europe and America are the result of a self-conscious effort by anti-Christian leaders to wrestle education away from Christian control or influence.
 1. Whoever controls the schools controls the future.
 2. Virtually all of us were taught history, literature, science, economics, social studies, and all our “real world” worldview from a secular school under Pharaoh’s control.
- B. The challenge we all face as Believers is how to successfully “de-program” ourselves from the world’s way of thinking and still communicate effectively in the world.
 1. We must read the Scripture as our point of reality, in general, and our need for re-education, in particular.
 2. Beyond this, we must learn how to read the Scriptures with the “magic glasses” related to our calling—in this case, business, economics, and leadership skills.
- C. A holy, sanctified life requires not just sexual morality and self-discipline in all areas of life; it requires a redeemed, renewed mind (Romans 12:1-2).
 1. A “Christian worldview” is not simply for the elite; it is for every Believer. Worldview can be defined as “the seeing of all life either through the Scriptures or some other competing system of viewing human’s, nature, and the created universe.”
 2. A biblical worldview rejects both “dualism” (“good” spirit and “evil” matter) and Marcionism (which says the Old Testament is an obsolete document and is led by a different “God” than the Jesus of the New Testament). However, the Old Testament Scriptures were what helped build the New Testament Church!

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that Christianity has little or nothing to say about how we view the real world other than in the area of personal morality. The world wants us to believe that the marketplace means nothing to God.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, the world system’s thinking will sabotage us by trapping us in its ways or by telling us that the marketplace means nothing to God. Christianity has something to say about every aspect of the real world.

IV. As we discover the power of paradigms, we come to understand the saying “The mind justifies what the heart has chosen” (Deuteronomy 28:1-14; Psalm 86:11; Proverbs 11:14; John 3:19; 7:17; 8:32; 16:7-15; Romans 1:18-32; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Hebrews 4:12).

- A. “Paradigms” are sets or systems of seeing what we call reality. They make up the categories of our “mental bookshelves.”
 - 1. Examples of paradigms of thought are: evolution vs. creation; Christianity vs. Islam; the scientific method vs. fatalism; communism vs. capitalism; etc.
 - 2. They are built upon “presuppositions,” that is, basic assumptions about the nature of reality. Using the aforementioned examples of paradigms, their underlying presuppositions would be: adaptation through probability vs. completed design; Christ as God vs. Christ as subordinate prophet; testing vs. superstition; dialectical materialism vs. free-market self-regulation.
- B. Paul clearly teaches us in Romans 1:18-33 that presuppositions which build our paradigms are built on heart issues (John 3:19) more than clearly rational decisions.
 - 1. When our heart (self-interest) makes up its mind, it phones up our brain and demands all the evidence it can give it to support what it has chosen! Hence, the mind justifies what the heart has chosen.
 - 2. Our job is to submit our hearts and decision-making processes to the Lord (Psalm 86:11).
- C. The “way of the Lord” (used over 1,000 times in scripture) must precede how we come to our “truth,” i.e., “I am the way, the truth, and the life...” (John 14:6).
 - 1. God’s “ways” include:
 - a. Obedience leads to understanding (John 7:17).
 - b. The Scripture is our infallible guide (Hebrews 4:12).
 - c. The Holy Spirit is our teacher (John 16:7-15).
 - d. Decisions should be made or confirmed by reliable counsel (Proverbs 11:14).
 - e. We grow in knowledge and discernment by practicing the truth (Hebrews 5:12-14) as we become disciplined learners/disciples.
 - 2. If we do these things, we will prosper (Deuteronomy 28:1-14).

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that scientific facts and reason undergird the real world, whereas religious issues are personal and subjective.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, we must keep our hearts in God’s hands to keep our lives free from self-deception. Biblical principles undergird any successful society, and principles articulated in the Scriptures have precedence over reason and conventional wisdom in the marketplace.

V. In our struggle for renewal, we experience the reality of “the war between two seeds” (Genesis 3:15; Psalm 24:1; 89:14; 97:7; 110:1-2; Matthew 4:4; 13:22; 24:30; 28:18; Luke 9:62; 19:13; John 18:36; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Revelation 19:7).

- A. In Genesis 3:15, “the war between two seeds” begins; it continues through the Book of Revelation.

1. The war between Christ and Satan and their followers is over the control and management of the people and the resources of the earth.
 2. In this war, the Church is to be on offense, not defense (Matthew 16:18) because the earth belongs to Christ (Matthew 28:18; Psalm 24:1). The world system is the squatter.
- B. From the perspective of the cross, resurrection, and ascension (Psalm 110), Christians must resolve these three questions:
1. Who owns the earth: God or Satan?
 2. Does the Word of God apply to all men? (Matthew 4:4)
 3. What is the Church supposed to do on the planet now? (Matthew 13:24-30; Luke 19:13)
- C. Christ's Kingdom values and lifestyle are "not of this world" (John 18:36) but their source is from God's throne. Our job is to occupy the planet and evangelize/disciple it through the "Righteousness-Justice" model.
1. The **RIGHTEOUSNESS-JUSTICE DIAGRAM** (Psalm 89:14, 97:7)

	RIGHTEOUSNESS	JUSTICE	JUSTICE ISSUES
Our Personal Commitment to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Character • Purity • Obedience • Personal Destiny 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relational & community selflessness • Biblical conflict resolution • Modesty • Gluttony, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gossip • Law breaking • Slander • Unforgiveness
Our Social Commitment to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freedom from racism, materialism, denominationalism, etc. • Empowerment of others • Charity toward others • Active citizenship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being informed and active relative to biblical rights of others • Working to extend God's Kingdom into all spheres of human life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abortion • Welfare • Slavery • Drugs, etc.

For more info on this topic, please refer to Dr. Carl Ellis' teaching, "Biblical Righteousness Is a Four-Paned Window" at: www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/biblical-righteousness-four-paned-window

2. Christ is not coming back to rescue us but to promote us as a ready bride and prepared harvest (Matthew 13:30; Revelation 19:7)!
- D. A significant part of that "war" is over the question of how we as Christians measure "success."
1. Success: From man's point of view or God's, that is the question.
 2. Welcome to the foundational issues leading to true success as we begin the journey to build and live out a truly Christian worldview, in general, and in the marketplace, in particular!

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that Satan owns this world and the Church cannot change anything until Christ returns and gives it the power to do so.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, the pressures from our life struggles or the deceptions of false "success" can lead us to lose our focus on expanding God's Kingdom on earth. God owns the world and holds sovereign control over the affairs of men.

GoBusiness100 | Lesson 15

Worldview for the Marketplace: Audio 1

Glorifying God in the War Between Two Seeds

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

Homework:

- 1. In terms of attitudes and actions, what are some of the differences between living to go to heaven and living to glorify God now in His Kingdom as it extends on Earth?**

- 2. What does “living in the now” mean, and how do you get there?**

- 3. How does “deprogramming” from the world system’s way of thinking make you more effective in the war between two seeds? (Genesis 3:15)**

- 4. What are the implications in this lifetime to the reality that you have already been “transferred into the Kingdom of God’s Son?” (Colossians 1:13)**

Quiz:

1. **Worldview for the Marketplace - Master Principle #1: _____ opens the door to living and building in God's eternal Kingdom.**
 - a. Salvation
 - b. Focusing on our Christ's return
 - c. Suppressing our individual identity
 - d. Going into ministry full time

2. **True or False: Satan owns this world and the Church cannot change anything until Christ returns and gives it the power to do so.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

3. **Christianity has something to say about every aspect of the real world.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

Worldview for the Marketplace: Audio 2

Building on Divine Law

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE | THREEFOLD CORD: REVELATION

MASTER PRINCIPLE #2:

We must discover and build upon God's master principles of life and structure.

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KEY CONCEPTS:

Applying God's Word to all things is essential.

1. Both the spiritual and natural universe are built upon God's laws of divine order.
2. God's laws are explicitly revealed in His Word and implicitly revealed in His creation.
3. The whole Word of God, Old and New Testaments, deals with God's will for every aspect of man's personal and social life.
4. There are five basic building blocks making up mankind's worldview.

MARKETPLACE MINISTRY APPLICATION:

Partnering with the Holy Spirit to apply the Scripture to your marketplace ministry.

1. Conventional business "wisdom" must align itself with God's Word or it is not wisdom and will lead to deception and failure.
2. We must look at the marketplace through spiritual eyes—not through natural eyes.
3. The whole of Scripture deals with the three foundations of business: a) strategic building, b) resource management, and c) problem-solving.
4. Our marketplace ministry is part of a larger social "ecosystem"; decisions require God-given wholistic thinking.

GoBusiness100 | Lesson 16

Worldview for the Marketplace: Audio 2

Building on Divine Law

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

Key Scriptures: 1 Chronicles 12:32; Psalm 8:3-8; Proverbs 8:22-31; 14:6, 12, 16; Ecclesiastes 3:11; Matthew 4:4; 5:45; John 2:6-10; 3:3; 16:7-15; 18:36; Romans 1:18-20; 7:7-13; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 2:6-16; Galatians 6:7; Colossians 1:16-18; 1 Timothy 1:6-11; 2 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 1:3; 4:1-13

I. **Master Principle #2: We must discover and build upon God’s master principles of life and structure.**

- A. This lesson deals with how God’s Word applies to all human activity.
 - 1. It deals with the universality of God’s objective Word (Matthew 4:4).
 - 2. It deals with how God’s Word applies to “saved” and “unsaved” mankind.
- B. It also deals with the relationship between the Old and New Testaments.
 - 1. We will be discussing the question of the Old Testament public policy and economic law.
 - 2. We will be discussing the application of biblical social law in a pluralistic society.
 - 3. We will see how obeying or disobeying God’s laws and principles causes us to “reap what we sow” (Galatians 6:7).

II. **Both the spiritual and the natural universe are built on God’s laws of divine order. (Psalm 8:3-8; Proverbs 8:22-31, 14:6,12,16; Matthew 5:45; John 2:6-10; Colossians 1:16-18; Hebrews 1:3).**

- A. While some secular “wisdom” is certain that Christianity is non-scientific superstition (Proverbs 14:6, 12, 16), the facts are that Christ created the world and holds its molecules together! (Psalm 8:3-8; Proverbs 8:22-31; Colossians 1:16-18; Hebrews 1:3)
 - 1. God is a systematic, intricate Builder with amazing laws of engineering, physics, chemistry, and art which fill all He has created.
 - 2. Like the best aged wine Christ created out of water at the wedding (John 2:6-10), He has the power to create a new earth that has “old” characteristics.
- B. Since humans are created beings and our mental DNA is modeled after God (Genesis 1:26-28), we innately pattern personal and social tendencies after God’s laws, though grossly distorted by sin.
 - 1. Man’s “need to know and discover” was programmed into him by his Maker. Whatever he does that “works,” does so because it aligns itself with the Creator’s laws and ordinances.
 - 2. In terms of universal laws and principles, there is no separation of spirit and matter (dualism) in God’s creation; it is a united fabric of reality.
- C. Let’s now briefly discuss this law-based reality relative to the marketplace and economics, beginning with the issue of why God loves the marketplace and work.

1. God loves work because He is an eternal worker Himself as we will see in Lesson Four.
 2. He loves the marketplace because He loves people, and the marketplace is where their physical provision for food, clothing, and the possibility of “profit” makes possible their ability to provide shelter, medical care, education, and all other human amenities (Matthew 5:45).
- D. The laws of the marketplace provide a perfect example of the totally melded interplay between the natural and spiritual law.
1. Mathematics helps us identify some of the marketplace’s “physical” laws such as demand, supply, etc.,
 2. Likewise, we know that “economics” is about people’s perceived needs and inner spiritual dynamics such as fear, greed, honesty/dishonesty, motivation, etc.
 3. For example, the stability of a nation’s economic work force is totally related to the stability and motivation of its spiritual view of marriage, male/female relationships, children, and generational transfer.
 4. We expect revival through the workplace for two reasons:
 - a. It is the place of exchange.
 - b. Most Christians interact more and longer with the unsaved in the workplace than anywhere else.

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that if spiritual laws exist, they cannot be proven scientifically, especially in a universe of relativity.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, conventional business “wisdom” must align itself with God’s Word, or it is not wisdom and will lead to deception and failure. Spiritual laws do exist and are proven daily in every part of the universe.

III. God’s laws are explicitly revealed in His Word and implicitly revealed in His creation. (John 3:3; 16:7-15; 1 Corinthians 2:6-16; Hebrews 4:1-13)

- A. As discussed, God’s laws are interwoven in spiritual and physical reality. But as Paul (1 Corinthians 2:6-16) and Jesus (John 3:3) said, we must be spiritually reborn to see and understand them with the Holy Spirit’s help (John 16:7).
1. “Laws” simply mean set principles. Compliance brings peace and blessing, whereas noncompliance brings strife, confusion, and failure.
 2. These God-ordained laws are revealed in nature (General Revelation) and in the Scriptures (Special Revelation). We hold to a presuppositionalist view of reality, reasoning first out of the Scriptures rather than reasoning first out of nature (“evidentialism”).
- B. Both natural and spiritual laws produce consequences, as we have just noted (“sanctions” of blessing or cursing).
1. “The way things work” is determined by the Master Builder; the issue, therefore, becomes obedience or rebellion.
 2. Therefore, there are no “neutral zones” in any part of God’s creation, which is what Pharaoh’s world-system demands we believe!

3. Therefore, it is also true that all law is “religious” because it seeks to reward and punish (that is, to sanction) specific behavior. For this reason, it is possible to separate church from state, but never state from religion. All social law is “religious”; the question is, which religion? In the US, the battle is between Christianity and secular humanism which is sympathetic to all religions except Christianity.
4. Our goal should be to flow with God’s laws and to enter His rest and blessing as individuals and nations (Hebrews 4:1-13).

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that the Bible is a cultural, anthropological, and religious book filled with bits of wisdom, cultural prejudices, and idiosyncrasies.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, we must look at the marketplace through spiritual eyes, not our faith through natural eyes. The Bible is the Manufacturer’s Handbook and is full of wisdom and understanding from the Creator on how His universe operates and how it should be managed.

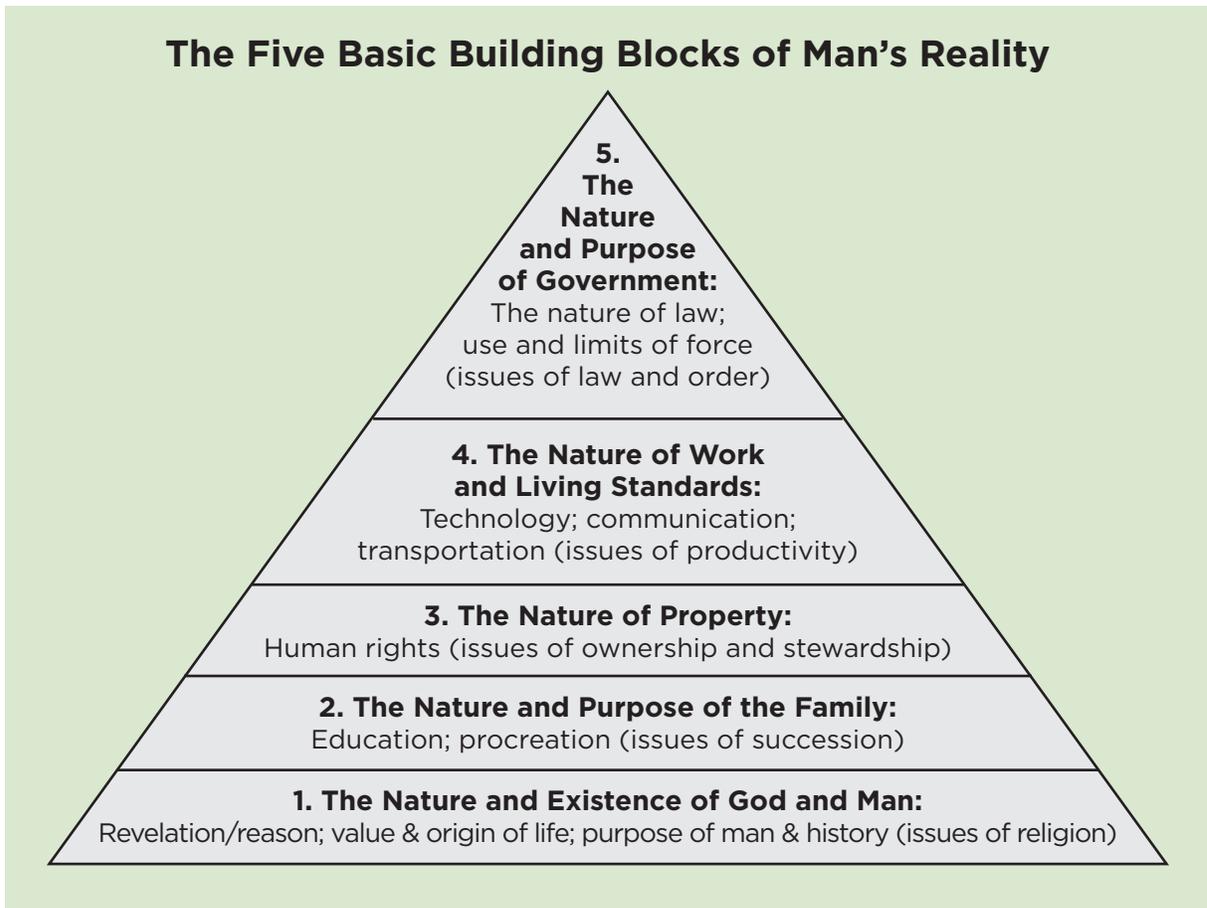
IV. The whole Word of God, Old and New Testaments, deals with God’s will for every aspect of man’s personal and social life (Ecclesiastes 3:11; Matthew 4:4; Romans 1:18-20, 7:7-13, 10:4; 1 Timothy 1:6-11; 2 Timothy 3:16).

- A. God’s law applies in two major ways:
 1. They do not apply to Christians in terms of needing to obey them for our ultimate salvation (Romans 10:4), however, the principles still apply relative to strife or blessing. For example, breaking the law that forbids adultery may not cost your salvation, but it will cause huge negative life consequences.
 2. The law, except food laws and ceremonial laws for the Jewish religious, is still very much in effect for the unsaved and is, in fact, what the Holy Spirit uses to bring conviction to the unsaved (Romans 7:7-13; Galatians 3:24; 1 Timothy 1:6-11).
- B. This raises the question: How do the Old and New Testament Scriptures relate to us all?
 1. Firstly, the New Testament Church of the first several centuries was built upon the Old Testament since there was no agreed-upon New Testament until the fourth century! When Paul told Timothy to study the Scriptures, he was talking about the Old Testament (2 Timothy 3:16).
 2. Secondly, the Old Testament not only prophetically establishes Christ’s coming and ministry, it lays down God’s social laws for all mankind in great detail (Matthew 4:4). All societies are blessed or cursed in relation to how they obey those laws consciously or unconsciously (Ecclesiastes 3:11; Romans 1:18-20).
- C. The Old and New Testaments form the whole of Scripture and are a continuous message from God of His love, purposes, acts, and the unfolding revelation of Himself.
 1. The notion of a “dead and useless” Old Testament is the heresy of Marcion; Marcionism was universally rejected by the Church Fathers.
 2. Huge amounts of business, economic, and social laws are found in the Old Testament. Jesus didn’t need to say many things in the New Testament about these issues since He’d already said so much about them in the Old Testament!

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that the Old Testament is no longer in force in any way.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, the whole of scripture deals with the three foundations of business: a) strategic building, b) resource management, and c) problem solving. Both the Old and New Testament are needed to gain an accurate picture of God, His ways, and His purposes.

V. There are five basic building blocks that make up mankind’s worldview (1 Chronicles 12:32).

A. The following diagram is taken from GoStrategic’s School of Strategic Living (www.schoolofstrategicliving.com) and best illustrates these five building blocks:



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Examples of False, Presuppositional Agendas

<u>Issue</u>	<u>False Presupposition</u>
Origin of Life:	No God—all information is gathered and forced through the filter of randomness and natural selection, or through another filter.
Sexual Freedom:	No God—all moral decisions are based on hope of science “freeing” us from the natural consequences of disease and pregnancy.
Human History:	No God—human history has no meaning beyond the gradual enlightened development of man as he discovers himself through humanistic education and scientific technology.

The Two Trees in the Garden

The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil	The Tree of Life
<p style="text-align: center;">INDEPENDENCE:</p> <p>“I will experience reality independent of God.” (humanism)</p> <p>“I will evaluate for myself what to do with my life.”</p> <p>“I will order my ‘knowledge’ so as to justify my choices.”</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DEPENDENCE:</p> <p>“I will submit my life and learning experiences to the One who made me.”</p> <p>“I will not evaluate God, rather I will trust Him.”</p> <p>“I will order my knowledge by His revealed will and trust Him relationally to bring me into His fullest fellowship.”</p>

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that religion is often an important part of culture but very destructive outside of its proper place.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, our marketplace ministry is part of a larger social ecosystem, and decisions require wholistic thinking that is God-given. An active personal faith based on Judeo-Christian principles can begin in the home or religious establishment, but must be integrated into all of life if we are to experience success in our personal, corporate, or national life.

GoBusiness100 | Lesson 16

Worldview for the Marketplace: Audio 2

Building on Divine Law

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

Homework:

- 1. Explain the distinction between the laws of God and the principles of God.**
- 2. How is it that believers can be free from the law yet still living under God's principles?**
- 3. What does it mean when we say that God is a "systematic builder?" What does that have to do with you?**
- 4. At this point in your life, with what major principles of God can you honestly say you have consciously determined to align your life?**
- 5. To what degree do you still struggle with antinomianism (a rejection of laws) in your own life?**

6. Give examples from your life and the lives of others where you have seen the laws of God operate to reveal rebellion or ignorance?

7. Why might it be unwise to hire a Christian who professes freedom from the laws and principles of God and who labels any who observe them as legalistic?

8. In your leadership and management at work, how systematic are the leadership principles you apply? Do others see the value of these principles? How do you know?

9. Consider some examples of how you might promote creativity in others without promoting independence that undercuts genuine teamwork?

Quiz:

1. **Worldview for the Marketplace - Master Principle #2: We must discover and build upon _____ of life and structure.**
 - a. our own understanding
 - b. only the New Testament's teachings
 - c. God's master principles
 - d. peer-reviewed scientific study
 - e. our culture's predominant view

2. **Conventional business "wisdom" must align itself with God's Word, or it is not wisdom and will lead to deception and failure.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

3. **Our marketplace ministry is part of a larger social ecosystem, and decisions require God-given, wholistic thinking.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

Worldview for the Marketplace: Audio 3

Getting Free From Pharaoh's Propaganda Machines

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE | THREEFOLD CORD: REVELATION



MASTER PRINCIPLE #3:
Ideas and actions produce economic consequences

KEY CONCEPTS:

Seeing the necessity of deprogramming from the world system and building instead on God's laws of sowing and reaping.

1. "Pharaoh's" world system spends vast amounts of time and energy brainwashing us with its presuppositions and propaganda.
2. How we see things shapes all our relationships and what our lives and energy produce.
3. Westernization and modernization are based on combinations of Greco-Roman culture, Christianity, and the modern "left-right" game.
4. Historic, reformed Christianity is the foundation of the so-called "free market" and its engine of prosperity.

MARKETPLACE MINISTRY APPLICATION:

Building your life and ministry on the positive laws of sowing and reaping; making wise investments.

1. Unless we can find biblical truth in the world's "wisdom," we should not apply it to our lives, families, businesses, or nations.
2. What we produce in our work externally reflects what we see internally and how we see it.
3. All human "wisdom" contains a mixture of selfishness, ignorance, and demonic design, and must be measured by Scripture and proven, biblical counselors.
4. All sound business and stewardship practices are grounded in God's Word, even if the world wants credit for them.

GoBusiness100 | Lesson 17

Worldview for the Marketplace: Audio 3

Getting Free From Pharaoh's Propaganda Machines

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

Key Scriptures: Genesis 12:1; Exodus 2:10; Deuteronomy 17:6; Judges 13:7; 1 Samuel 16:11; Psalm 101:6-7; Ecclesiastes 4:10-12; Matthew 3:1-4; 4:1-11; John 3:3-5; 14:26; 18:36; Acts 13:1-3; 15:25, 28; Romans 12:1-2; Galatians 1:17-2:1; 6:7; 1 Thessalonians 5:20; Hebrews 11:23-24; James 1:5-8; 3:14-18; 4:1

I. Master Principle #3: Ideas and actions produce economic consequences.

- A. This lesson deals with our need to be deprogrammed from the world systems' thought processes and agenda.
 - 1. Until we begin the climb up out of our fallenness and the extent to which we have been effectively brainwashed by the world system, we don't really see the extent of our need for a "renewed mind" (Romans 12:1-2).
 - 2. The challenge is always to get beyond "thinking new but acting old!"
- B. It also deals with Christianity's role in the formation of Western culture, the political economy, and the implications related to these issues:
 - 1. Secular thought is not the origin of what works—biblical thought is.
 - 2. Anything that works in the long run does so to the degree it aligns itself with God's law and principles.

II. "Pharaoh's" world system spends vast amounts of time and energy brainwashing us with its presuppositions and propaganda (James 1:5-8; 3:14-18; 1 Thessalonians 5:20).

- A. The world system spends multiple billions of dollars in forming our mind-sets or paradigms through social custom, secular education and media, and religious "spiritual" deceptions.
 - 1. We must begin to see and practice deprogramming as we listen carefully to conventional wisdom, the news, the media, and virtually all forms of "socialization."
 - 2. As we begin this journey, our fallen minds, personal insecurities, and the world's peer pressures will strongly challenge our sanity and motives.
- B. Biblically, every effective messenger of God at some point went through periods of deep isolation, deprogramming, and cultural separation:
 - 1. Abraham from his father and culture (Genesis 12:1).
 - 2. Moses and his Egyptian education (Exodus 2:10; Hebrews 11:23-24).
 - 3. David as an isolated shepherd (1 Samuel 16:11).
 - 4. Samson as a Nazirite (Judges 13:7).
 - 5. John the Baptist in the wilderness (Matthew 3:1-4).
 - 6. Jesus in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11).
 - 7. The Apostle Paul in the Arabian Desert (Galatians 1:17-2:1).

- C. Our current Western culture is sinking in a sea of deceptive “political correctness.”
1. Polytheism: All religions are equally valid and true.
 2. Multiculturalism: All cultures are essentially of equal value.
 3. Egalitarianism: All mankind is equal and no one human has valid authority over another.
 4. Centralism: Central government is more effective than local or national governments.
 5. Racism: All negative critiques of racial weaknesses, tendencies, or even unique strengths are “evil” to discuss.
 6. Transsexualism: Hetero-monogamy is only one of a multitude of valid sexual lifestyles.
 7. Antinomianism: By their very nature, laws are restrictive and challenge freedom, life, and spontaneity.
 8. Relativism: All “truth” and opinions are relative and subjective.
 9. Syncretism: Melding different truths together creates purer “truth.”
 10. Democratic Imperialism: Democracy is the only valid form of government.

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that the educational, cultural, and professional sectors of society provide the information essential for success, harmony, and the prosperity of our culture.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, unless we can find biblical truth in the world’s “wisdom,” we should not apply it in our lives, families, businesses, or nations.

III. How we see things shapes all our relationships and what our lives and energy produce (Psalm 101:6-7; John 3:3-5; 14:26; 18:36; Galatians 6:7; James 4:1).

- A. As we all know, ideas produce actions, and actions produce consequences. They are all relative to God’s absolute standard of truth and reality.
1. Even good ideas or “God ideas” need God’s will, sequence, and timing.
 2. The upside of this truth comes when we sow into good ideas.
 3. Our external work is the outward manifestation and actualization of our internal reality of mind, emotions, values, will, and spirit.
- B. What we “internally see” is what we tend to externally produce.
1. The old saying about faith: If you can’t see it before you see it, you’ll never see it!
 2. All the focus on “visualization” is simply a spin-off from an element of biblical faith.
 3. As we have already seen in Lessons One and Two, our presuppositions and paradigms both limit and define what we can see as possibilities.
 4. Biblical repentance (*mataneo*) actually means to re-channel the way one thinks.
- C. When we see God’s Kingdom (John 3:3-5; 18:36), God’s “possibility thinking” begins to open to us.
1. As the experience with the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil proves

(Genesis 3:1-7), seeing “new possibilities” apart from God can be a disaster.

2. The issue in business, as in all else, is seeing in tandem with the enabling of God’s Spirit! (John 14:26)
- D. Because genuine transformation comes from “the inside out,” it is critical, both personally and organizationally, to control our internal environment.
1. As a rule, most new thoughts are stimulated by others’ insight or actions.
 2. Knowing whom to listen to and whom not to listen to becomes critical as we seek to guard our thought processes (Psalm 101:6-7).
 3. The first year of GoBusiness centers around 39 principles of personal and organizational transformation.

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that while there may be many ways to see things philosophically or religiously, secular truth is based on “neutral” facts.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, what we produce in our work externally reflects what we see internally and how we see it. Everyone has a worldview. Secular “wisdom” is not neutral, but based on a set of basic assumptions about the nature of reality (a worldview).

IV. Westernization and modernization are based on a combination of Greco-Roman culture, Christianity, and the modern “left-right” game (Deuteronomy 17:6; Ecclesiastes 4:10-12; Acts 13:1-3; 15:25, 28).

- A. All social systems operate off major cultural paradigms. These paradigms, built upon presuppositions, approach “knowledge or truth” in a prejudicial way which involves:
1. How you gather information. (What am I after?)
 2. How the information is analyzed. (What do I hope/expect to find?)
 3. How the information is presented. (How do I want others to see the information?)
 4. How you want the information used. (What do I want others to do with the information?)
- B. Western culture is a syncretistic (blended) culture essentially consisting of the following major idea/agenda components (contrasts):

1. The Greek Way of Thinking	The Hebrew Way of Thinking
Reason	Revelation
Knowledge	Character
Dualism (good spirit, evil matter)	Wholism (a unified spirit/matter creation)
Association	Covenant
Teaching/lecturing	Training/discipling
Humanistic	Theocentric
Education	Mentoring in practics
Youth culture	Honor for age

2. Roman cultural imperialism (Roman icons, indigenous government); pragmatism.
 3. Christian law base (Deuteronomy/Blackstone) and Catholic/Reformed heritage.
 4. Socialism (civil centralism) vs. “free market” conservatism (cause-effect “regulation”).
- C. Geopolitically the “Westernization-modernization” distinction is critical:
1. The whole world is moving towards “modernization” (technological, advanced economy).
 2. The non-Christian world is increasingly rejecting Westernization (humanistic “freedom”).

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that the success of democratic institutions is based upon the primary notions of religious tolerance and majority rule with minority rights.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, all human wisdom contains the mixture of selfishness, ignorance, and demonic design and must be measured by Scripture and proven, biblical counselors. The success of democratic institutions is based upon their Judeo-Christian foundations and the willingness of the participants to be self-governing and disciplined under God’s authority.

V. Historic, reformed Christianity is the foundation of the so-called “free market” and its engine of prosperity (John 8:32; Galatians 6:7).

- A. Pharaoh demands credit for whatever “progress” the world appears to have made under the world system’s rule.
 1. He demands it in every sphere of culture.
 2. He demands it in the field of the economic-business sphere.
- B. Biblical truth, especially realized in the period of the Reformation, undergirds modern economic life.
 1. The “corporation model” first came out of the early monastery models of division of labor.
 2. Capitalism is based on investment theory; investment theory is based on the biblical concept of sowing and reaping vs. superstition or fatalism (Galatians 6:7).
 3. “Deferred consumption” comes from the biblical concept of “seed corn” (the list could go on and on).
- C. When we begin to see the Kingdom of God, we begin to change our physical reality, not just our internal spiritual reality.
 1. Ideas really do produce consequences.
 2. The Juarez-El Paso example proves it.
- D. The most important issue here in processing the issues of how we think and, therefore, act, is aligning our thinking with God’s thinking so we can become true Christian statesmen.
 1. Statesmen move from the “A-side” of life to the “B-side” of life and minister out from there.

GoBusiness100 | Lesson 17

Worldview for the Marketplace: Audio 3

Getting Free From Pharaoh's Propaganda Machines

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

Homework:

1. Is it an unfair accusation to suggest that our public school systems and universities “brainwash” students? Explain your answer.
2. What are some of the differences between people and cultures who believe in absolutes of moral conduct and thinking versus those who don't?
3. Explain what is meant by transformation working from “the inside-out?”
4. Each one of us has been influenced by the thinking of the culture. What will you do to have your mind renewed so that your thinking better reflects God's Kingdom values and standards?

- 5. Identify and write down three to four major assumptions about the nature of reality (presuppositions) in which you operate in life. An example of a presupposition would be to say that there are no absolute truths.**

- 6. The gospel of the Kingdom calls each one of us to move from the “A-side” to the “B-side.” Take some time to consider your life and where you are in this process.**

- 7. Why is it essential to work through a business plan before attempting to bring change to a department, person, or the entire company?**

- 8. Identify two biblical principles (with Scripture references) that relate to business practices the world system claims as its own.**

- 9. In sales and marketing, what is the difference between honest advertising and “propaganda?”**

Quiz:

1. **Worldview for the Marketplace - Master Principle #3: _____ produce(s) economic consequences.**
 - a. Secular investments
 - b. Poor work habits
 - c. Having any kind of debt
 - d. Ideas and actions

2. **Secular truth is superior to religious truth because it is based on neutral facts.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

3. **Everyone has a worldview.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

Worldview for the Marketplace: Audio 4

Living and Working Strategically

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE | THREEFOLD CORD: REVELATION



MASTER PRINCIPLE #4:

Work is a holy and everlasting calling in God.

KEY CONCEPTS:

Modeling what we are building after God and His ways of building.

1. God models for us what He expects us to do as we fellowship with Him in His strategic work and life.
2. God plays everyone who is in shape and plays them at the level they are prepared to play.
3. Strategic living requires serious levels of resource planning, personal discipline, and an active commitment to see God's Kingdom extended on earth.
4. Some work passes through death into eternity.

MARKETPLACE MINISTRY APPLICATION:

The strategic development of learning-based and character-based organizations.

1. All organizations should develop a self-conscious climate that is biblical and sets the standard for all practice and behavior.
2. Training and advancement should be the goal for all members of our families, churches, businesses, and nations.
3. All of the elements of strategic planning and discipline must undergird our business/stewardship preparations and executions.
4. Building character and skills must be at the center of our business enterprise: Profit will be the "fruit."

GoBusiness100 | Lesson 18

Worldview for the Marketplace: Audio 4

Living and Working Strategically

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

Key Scriptures: Genesis 1:26; 2:1-2; Deuteronomy 28:1-2; Psalm 90:12, 17; 139:16; Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:28-30; 28:18-20; Luke 14:26-35; John 5:17-30; 14:6-28; 16:7-16; 17:1-5, 20-26; Acts 2:23; 17:26; Romans 8:15-17; 1 Corinthians 3:9-15; 9:25-27; 10:13; 2 Corinthians 1:1-9; Galatians 4:1-7; Philippians 2:1-11; 3:7; 4:9; 1 Timothy 4:16; Hebrews 2:9-18; 4:15; 5:12-14; 12:11; 2 Peter 1:10-11; Revelation 13:8; 17:8

I. Master Principle #4: Work is a holy and everlasting calling in God.

- A. This lesson deals with following God as disciples:
 - 1. In His lifestyle, as revealed in Scripture.
 - 2. In His work patterns, as revealed in Scripture and nature.
- B. This lesson will also take us deeper into strategic thinking and its applications:
 - 1. We will examine the six basic components of strategic thinking.
 - 2. We will again discuss the issue of “earth work” that we can take with us into heaven.

II. God models for us what He expects us to do as we fellowship with Him in His strategic work and life (Genesis 1:26; 2:1-2; Matthew 11:28-30; John 5:17, 24, 30; 14:6, 16, 26, 28; 16:7-16; 17:1-5, 20-26; Romans 8:17; Philippians 2:1-11; Hebrews 2:9-18; 4:15).

- A. Our presupposition is that God models for us what He expects from us. This leadership principle establishes the integrity of saying, “I ask of you what I ask of Myself!” (Hebrews 2:9-18; 4:15)
 - 1. As exemplified by Jesus, leaders should model the activities, character, and attributes they expect from those who follow them.
 - 2. Therefore, we believe (as do the historic Christian creeds) that the Trinity models for us the essentials of human requirements and the keys to successful life achievement.
- B. In the Trinity, God models for us the essentials for success in organizations and in individual labor and reward. Among these modeled attributes within the Godhead are:
 - 1. A commitment to work (Genesis 2:1-2) and its eternal nature (John 5:17).
 - 2. A commitment to building in council (Genesis 1:26 “us”).
 - 3. A commitment to a division of labor (John 14:16, 26; 16:7:16).
 - 4. A commitment to the executive function and authority structures (John 14:28; Philippians 2:1-11).
 - 5. A commitment to train (Hebrews 5:8) and exalt (Psalm 40:8; John 17:20-26).
 - 6. A recognition that responsibility brings both judgment (the cross) and maturity (John 17:1-5).
 - 7. A commitment to expand and grow through shared responsibility (Romans 8:17; Revelation 2:26).

8. A commitment to work in perfect harmony with the goals and methods of the organization, adding our distinct labor and gifts as needed (John 5:24, 30).
- C. God’s ultimate strategy for productive work is to bring others into common labor with Him so that they can learn to think like Him and work with Him.
1. We see this truth explicitly shared by Christ in Matthew 11:28-30 when he says, “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me.”
 2. There is great truth in the statement “it takes one to know one” (parent, child, pastor, etc.).

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that earth time is about avoiding sin and preparing for heaven, not being overly concerned with the theology of God, or trying to build like He builds.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, all organizations should develop a self-conscious “way” or climate that is biblical and that sets the standard for all practice and behavior. While avoiding sin and preparing for heaven is important, Jesus commanded us to occupy until He comes and to learn and practice biblical ways in all areas of life.

III. God plays everyone who is in shape and plays them at the level they are prepared to play. (Luke 14:26-35; Romans 8:15-17; 1 Corinthians 9:25-27; 10:13; 2 Corinthians 1:1-9; Galatians 4:1-7; Philippians 3:7; 4:9; 1 Timothy 4:16; Hebrews 5:12-14; 12:11; 2 Peter 1:10-11)

- A. God models building what some call “learning organizations” by requiring the members to live out a disciplined learners’ lifestyle.
1. Scripture uses the word “Christian” three times and “disciple(s)” over 250 times. This is a clue! It also illustrates the hermeneutical law of frequency.
 2. A “disciplined learner” is characterized by these general traits:
 - a. They practice the truths they are exposed to as a lifestyle (1 Corinthians 9:25-27; Philippians 3:17; 4:9; 1 Timothy 4:16; Hebrews 5:12-14; 12:11; 2 Peter 1:10-11).
 - b. They prioritize their relationships, build strategically, expect warfare, and release their resources to what they believe in (Luke 14:26-35).
 - c. They are following someone’s leadership (1 Corinthians 11:1) and are committed to teach-train others what they have learned (Matthew 28:18-20).
- B. As a Master Coach, God “plays us” at our level of preparedness.
1. The level of training, sacrifice, and character equals the level of effectiveness (Jesus).
 2. We often play right at “the edge,” however, it is often in this place and process that God purifies and matures us (1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Corinthians 1:1-9).
- C. In this, we both reproduce and become models or “witnesses.” We are at all times either shaping the world around us or being shaped by it.
1. We begin our journey as those who are influenced; move to being intercepted by the gospel; become integrated with God’s truth; and then become influencers.
 2. God’s will is that all His children become “doorways” to His Kingdom!

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that Christianity only has to do with God’s love for us and our enjoyment of life in Christ, and that we can forsake the law and spiritual disciplines as this is simply legalism.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, training and advancement should be the goal for all members of our families, churches, businesses, and nation. Our need to train and be disciplined does not negate God’s love for us and His desire that we enjoy life in Christ.

IV. Strategic living requires serious levels of resource planning, personal discipline, and an active commitment to see God’s Kingdom extended on the earth (Psalm 90:12, 17; 139:16; Acts 2:23; 17:26; Revelation 13:8; 17:8).

- A. God lives and works strategically as the above Scriptures underscore. The closer we get to God and the way He thinks, the more strategic and focused we become.
 - 1. God apparently thinks from the end back to the beginning, starting at the desired results back to the critical path sequences to get those results.
 - 2. And from the macro (big picture) back through the micro (small details).
 - 3. While not everyone is gifted to plan this way, all successful organizations need the collective ability of their team to do so.
- B. While discipline and planning must be balanced by flexibility, both are essential to strategic work.
 - 1. At its root meaning, “discipline” carries the idea of removing that which doesn’t belong. The book of Proverbs says that in God, the keys to a successful and fruitful life are found in wisdom (*hokhmah*), which means “skill,” and instruction (*musar*), which means “discipline.”
 - 2. Both skill and discipline are the foundations of excellence.
- C. Strategic planning and thinking carries with it these six basic elements of resource identification, procurement, utilization, and replenishment:
 - 1. Revelational resources: Clarity on mission and execution.
 - 2. Relational resources: The right people for the right jobs with the ability to execute, motivate, and successfully resolve conflict.
 - 3. Educational and training resources: The information and procedures to guarantee continuous upgrading of the skill base.
 - 4. Financial resources: The necessary capital to operate, grow, and give.
 - 5. Communication resources: Internal and external message clarity.
 - 6. Prayer resources: Sustained ability to hear God’s heart and speak it into your work.

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that “Kingdom now” theology is not from God and that God is not interested in seeing His Kingdom established on the earth until He returns.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, all the elements of strategic planning and discipline must undergird our business and stewardship preparations and executions. While God’s Kingdom cannot be fully established until He returns, Christ expects us to continue His work of advancing the Kingdom wherever we have opportunity and influence in our neighborhoods and businesses, etc.

V. Some work passes through death into eternity (Deuteronomy 28:1-2; Isaiah 48:17-19; 1 Corinthians 3:9-15; Galatians 4:1-7).

- A. While we introduced this concept in Lesson One, we must constantly remember that our goal is to be doing eternal work now.
 - 1. When we begin to see and grow in God’s Kingdom reality, the eternal goals and values of God become clearer.
 - 2. His goal for us on earth is that out of our obedience, life would bless us (Deuteronomy 28:1-2; Isaiah 48:17-19), prepare us for eternity (Galatians 4:1-7), and make us witnesses that would call in the elect and confront mankind.
- B. In order to analyze our current condition, either personally or in terms of an organization, we need to be able to answer the following questions:

1. Where are you now? (a “picture”)	2. What change is needed? (a diagnosis)	3. How is it to be applied? (a plan)	4. Has it “taken?” (a new picture)
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- 1. These processes involve the interaction of:
 - a. Management
 - b. The staff/workers
 - c. The systems

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that in heaven we will forget our earth lives as sin will be remembered no more.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, building character and skills must be at the center of our business enterprise: Profit will be the “fruit.” While our tears and our sin will be wiped away, there are things that we invest in now that will pass into the next age. ”

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Worldview for the Marketplace: Audio 4

Living and Working Strategically

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

Homework:

1. What does it mean to say that God is the model for all conduct, morality, building principles, and building practices?
2. How does your salvation relate to the idea that “God plays everyone who is in shape at the level they are prepared to play?”
3. By memory, list the six strategic resources:
4. In what areas of your life is God working to “get you in shape” so you can play at a higher level?

Quiz:

- 1. Worldview for the Marketplace - Master Principle #4: Work is a _____ calling in God.**
 - a. holy and everlasting
 - b. holy but temporary
 - c. unholy and temporary
 - d. unholy but everlasting

- 2. While our tears and our sin will be wiped away in heaven, there are things that we invest in now that will pass into the next age.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

- 3. Christianity is all about God's love for us and our enjoyment of life in Christ, so it is ok to forsake the law and spiritual disciplines as this is simply legalism.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

Worldview for the Marketplace: Audio 5

The Power of Obedient Faith

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE | THREEFOLD CORD: REVELATION

MASTER PRINCIPLE #5:

The possibility of failure is essential to human growth.



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KEY CONCEPTS:

How to apply biblical faith in our decision making and how to be a witness at work.

1. In God, obedience and trust—not “reason”—are the currency of success.
2. From the human perspective, faith is a form of risk which builds our discernment and trust in God.
3. If our ministry is in the marketplace, then our faith must be fully expressed there.
4. Experiencing failure ourselves, and sometimes letting others fail, is a two-edged sword which contributes to our maturity.

MARKETPLACE MINISTRY APPLICATION:

Practicing biblical decision-making in matters of faith, evangelism, and employment practices.

1. In life and in business, “reason” must be defined as adhering to biblical principles in our decision-making process.
2. Managing risk is about eliminating false assumptions, presumption on God, unbiblical partnerships, and the demand that results look exactly like we think they should.
3. We must live in our witness at work, displaying our humanity, humility, fearlessness of conviction, love, and honoring of God.
4. We must have the courage to accept being hired, promoted, or demoted based on what God is doing to clarify and develop our calling, skills, and character.

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Worldview for the Marketplace: Audio 5

The Power of Obedient Faith

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

Key Scriptures: Genesis 12:3; Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18; 2 Kings 4; Proverbs 12:10; Matthew 5:13-16; 20:1-16, 22:37; John 7:17; Romans 14:17; 1 Corinthians 12 and 13; Galatians 5:22-26; Hebrews 11

I. Master Principle #5: The possibility of failure is essential to human growth.

- A. This lesson deals with two colossally important issues:
 1. Our lives and business ministries must be built on faith, not human reason.
 2. Biblical faith is a “dimension” which often involves testing, “failure,” and adjustment as stages in the journey to obedience and expected results.
- B. Therefore, this lesson lays the foundation for:
 1. Establishing a biblical methodology for decision making.
 2. Integrating our Christian faith into the entire fabric of our work and, in particular, our marketplace ministry.

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that “success” is measured best by achieving the goals we have set for ourselves and helping others do the same.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, in life and in business, reason must be defined as adhering to biblical principles in our decision-making process. Personal goal-setting and strategic planning help us achieve true success only when they are founded on obedience to what God has spoken to us and when we have surrendered our own will and independence to trust in Him.

II. In God, obedience and trust—not “reason”—are the “currency of success” (Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:37; John 7:17; 1 Corinthians 2).

- A. As we have already seen and will see again, human “reason” is a false god, and our plumb line in God is obedient faith and trust.
 1. True reasoning, which is God’s intellectual gift to us, is reasoning from the correct biblical assumptions as we work through Scriptures with the Holy Spirit and competent supplementing counselors.
 2. Because the mind justifies what the heart has chosen, “reason” is never objective and is always based on values and presuppositions.
- B. The core values of biblical decision making are:
 1. Does this decision embody the multitude of Scriptures dealing with this or similar situations?

2. Are the primary goals of this decision:
 - a. Obedience and honor to God?
 - b. Development of the moral and spiritual character and virtues of all involved participants?
- C. All of the above presupposes “reasoning” or thinking out of our spirit, not our natural intelligence (1 Corinthians 2).
 1. In the fall, man’s soul life took ascendancy over his spiritual life.
 2. In Christ, we are “spiritually reborn,” which means our spiritual being in God recovers its proper life-governing role (Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:37).
- D. “Success” then is measured by:
 1. Honoring God.
 2. Serving all men and women as God declares He wants them served.

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that “faith” is more about believing in Christ and the Bible than doing things in the “real world,” let alone in the marketplace.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, managing “risk” is about eliminating false assumptions, presumption on God, unbiblical partnerships, and the demand that results look exactly like we think they should. Our faith in Christ and His Word must be taken into the real world of neighborhood needs, community service, and marketplace adventure.

III. From the human perspective, faith is a form of risk which builds our discernment and our trust in God (Genesis 12:3; Hebrews 11).

- A. Faith must become a lifestyle, not an isolated act we engage in when we decide to be “spiritual” or make decisions.
 1. Faith is living out of our spirit in communion with and obedience to God, and following His Word as we apply it to all relationships and facets of life.
 2. Faith is not a “leap”; it is a carefully chosen direction based on clearly observed spiritual laws and principles, and trust in the God who established them.
- B. Faith, because it is a “way” not an event, is a process in time involving:
 1. Discovery and verification of the issues in any situation from a biblical point of view.
 2. A process of decision → enactment → response to results → adjustments/corrections → vigilance in the face of obstacles → emerging achievement → and humility and gratitude before God.
 3. The “secret” of a life of faith is to train in it all day long, maintaining a constant internal dialogue with God as we navigate through opportunities and challenges.
- C. Biblically speaking, the primary or foundational business relationships are those of the involved family (Genesis 12:3).
 1. Biblical trades or services tended to be generational and based on discipling and apprenticeship more than simple academic exposure to knowledge.

2. Dismissing this phenomenon as an attribute of an agrarian or “primitive” society misses the point: Generational transfer is the primary source of lasting wealth because it builds upon both family history and God’s sovereignty.
3. Family business promotes self-sufficiency under God which is economic freedom.
4. Invariably, people who go through the school tell us that its biggest initial effect is on their families.

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that the workplace is not a place to proselytize and that doing so is totally unprofessional.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, we must live our witness at work, displaying our humanity, humility, fearlessness of conviction, love, and honoring of God.

IV. If our ministry is in the marketplace, then our faith must be fully expressed there (2 Kings 4; Matthew 5:13-16; 20:1-16; Romans 14:17; 1 Corinthians 12 and 13; Galatians 5:22-26).

- A. From a strict, biblically textual, and word-analysis point of view, “worship” and “work” are virtually identical.
 1. Our work is to be a form of worship before the Lord.
 2. Our work is a demonstrable expression of our revelation, values, goals, ethics, morals, relational skills, stewardship skills, strategic thinking, character, etc. What else is there?
- B. Faith in the marketplace is where we witness (display) our true life in Christ through:
 1. Our love for God and fellow man.
 2. Our character.
 3. The fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-26).
 4. The gifts of the Holy Spirit as adapted to the workplace (1 Corinthians 12 and 13).
 5. Our concern for “unhired lives” (Matthew 20:11-16).
 6. Our commitment to invest in empowering others. Wealth, talent, riches, and time are all “buried” by God in people; discerning which ones to invest in is the key to prosperity in crisis. Example: Elisha and the widow’s oil (2 Kings 4).
 7. Our commitment and constantly upgraded skills in “fishing for men” (Matthew 4:19) with what people give us to work with. This includes “micro-fishing” (personal) and “macro-fishing” (the social extension of Kingdom economic theory and practice).

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that while some failures seem necessary to gain wisdom, we should not put too much value on failure.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, we must have the courage to accept being hired, promoted, or demoted based upon what God is doing to clarify and develop our calling, skills, and character. Failure is essential for human growth.

V. Experiencing failure ourselves, and sometimes letting others fail, is a two-edged sword which contributes to our maturity (Proverbs 12:10).

- A. Pertaining to “faith,” failure in the short run is often a part of the process.
 - 1. Consequences are always our teacher. The issue is, how did they adjust us?
 - 2. Our primary concern must be people’s response to failure, not that idea that we or they have failed.
 - 3. As I teach in Living Life God’s Way, we should all have “Never Again” lists!
- B. One of the great challenges of life therefore becomes: “How do we truly help people in apparent failure?”
 - 1. Unbiblical “compassion” actually further damages and imprisons them in their unrepented errors or lifestyles (Proverbs 12:10).
 - 2. For Believers and a just society, the balance and clear distinctions between “temporary relief,” “training towards proficiency,” or “outright charity” must be kept clear.
 - 3. Modern Western social policy does not keep these distinctions clear and is often a disaster.
 - 4. In the long run, we don’t serve people by employing them where they don’t belong, “using them” without upgrading their skills, or shielding them from the consequences of their actions.

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Worldview for the Marketplace: Audio 5

The Power of Obedient Faith

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

Homework:

- 1. How is biblical faith related to human reasoning, knowing that reason is an attribute and gift from God?**
- 2. In your own words, explain why the possibility of failure is essential to human growth.**
- 3. Explain the relationship between faith and risk.**
- 4. Give some examples as to how your biblical faith is reflected in your work:**

Quiz:

1. **Worldview for the Marketplace - Master Principle #5: The possibility of _____ is essential to human growth.**
 - a. success
 - b. failure
 - c. self-examination
 - d. logical reasoning

2. **Failure is essential for human growth and we must have the courage to accept being hired, promoted, or demoted based upon what God is doing to clarify and develop our calling, skills, and character.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

3. **Faith is more about believing in Christ and the Bible than doing things in the real world, let alone in the marketplace.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

Worldview for the Marketplace: Audio 6

Mediating Grace

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE | THREEFOLD CORD: LIVING AND BUILDING RELATIONALLY



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MASTER PRINCIPLE #6:

We grow in God by caring for people and things.

KEY CONCEPTS:

Mutual need not only matures us, it is the essence of true community.

1. All life is grounded in Christ; He is our mediator between us and God the Father.
2. Mediating grace is the genius of God and the “glue” of human community.
3. Mediating grace opens up for us the reality of the “triangle of life.”
4. As we see God’s love mediated to us through others, it connects us to Him in new and deeper ways.

MARKETPLACE MINISTRY APPLICATION:

The heart of any organization is the relational climate among team members.

1. All organizational relationships need a point of accountability to help mediate relational issues.
2. Every functioning member of a team contributes vitally to its success.
3. Our most important witness at the workplace is keeping Christ at the center of all our relationships.
4. Organizational leaders and managers are responsible for the heart of the organization which is the relational climate of the enterprise.

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Worldview for the Marketplace: Audio 6

Mediating Grace

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

Key Scriptures: Matthew 16:18; 25:31-46; Luke 16:10-12; John 14:6; 17:18-20; 20:22-23; 21:16; 1 Corinthians 4:17; 11:1; 12; Ephesians 3:14-18; 4:8-16; 1 Timothy 2:5; 1 John 4:19-20

I. Master Principle #6: We grow in God by caring for people and things.

- A. This lesson deals with another two colossally important issues:
 - 1. God builds relationally and so must we. We must build upon God's "mediating grace."
 - 2. The foundation of any organization is its sense of mutual need, value, communication between its members, and ability to serve others.
- B. Therefore, this lesson lays the foundation for:
 - 1. Building successful business organizations.
 - 2. Clearly understanding the nature of the relational "glue" which permits organizations and community to function and operate as learning and serving organizations.

II. All life is grounded in Christ, and He is our mediator between us and God the Father (Matthew 16:18; 25:31-46; John 17:18-20; 20:22-23; 1 Corinthians 4:17; 11:1; 12; Ephesians 4:8-16; 1 Timothy 2:5).

- A. Christ is our only mediator between God and man; He is the author and finisher of our salvation.
 - 1. A mediator acts as a bridge between parties, carrying communication and needs between them; a mediator represents both parties to one another.
 - 2. While human beings can carry parts of God's grace and service to one another, obviously only Christ can mediate Father's salvation.
- B. A major part of the Catholic-Protestant conflict in the 1500s centered around this issue.
 - 1. Roman Catholics held that the church officials could mediate salvation since they held the "keys to the Kingdom" in the church's founding (Matthew 16:19; John 20:22-23).
 - 2. The Protestant position is that no man can mediate God's saving grace and forgiveness of sin except Christ Jesus (John 14:6).
- C. As we discuss God's mediating grace through people, we must be very clear that we are not talking about salvation or the forgiveness of sins.
 - 1. Jesus made it very clear that serving each other serves Him and, in that sense, people may represent His love and care between God and man (Matthew 25:31-46).

2. Scripture makes it clear that people carry His gifts and power for mankind, representing or “mediating” on His behalf (1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4:8-16).
 3. Both Paul and Christ made it very clear that others could represent them, their ways, and life, to others (John 17:18-20; 1 Corinthians 4:17; 11:1).
- D. Here are but a few examples of relationships modeling mediating grace:
1. Parents mediating God’s provision and protection to their children.
 2. God mediating His provision for us through animals and plants as our physical sustenance.
 3. God mediating His governing empowerment through the five-fold gifts in man (Ephesians 4:12-16).
 4. The mediation of God’s “masculine/feminine side” through marriage and brothers and sisters.

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that “mediating grace” sounds like the heresy of the Catholic faith, placing the mediation of God’s saving grace and forgiveness of sin on a person or a church.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, all organizational relationships need a point of accountability to help mediate relational issues. Only Christ can mediate God’s saving grace and forgiveness of sin.

III. Mediating grace is the genius of God and the “glue” of human community (Leviticus 26:8; 1 Corinthians 12:23; Ephesians 3:14-18; 4:15-16).

- A. As Rocky says in the movie, “She’s got gaps, I got gaps. Together we fill the gaps.” And so it is.
1. God has created us all with strengths and weaknesses whereby we need God’s gifts and love as the source of all good things, through each other.
 2. If any of us were self-sufficient, we would not need each other. Mutual human need is the genius of God whereby true community is held together.
 3. So it is in any family, church, business, or nation; all of us are needed to make us whole.
- B. This principle of mutual need actually produces the phenomenon of synergism.
1. Synergism is the result of people pulling together out of complementary engagement in such a way that two plus two produces six, not four (Leviticus 26:8).
 2. This phenomenon is what makes great teams, companies, families, churches, etc.
- C. Paul’s great exposition on mutual need is found in 1 Corinthians 12.
1. It illustrates the mutuality of complementary gifts.
 2. It illustrates the need to honor all gifts, especially the ones that seem less essential (1 Corinthians 12:23).
 3. It exemplifies the team-building spirit powerfully.
 4. The full knowledge of God will only come through community (Ephesians 3:14-18).

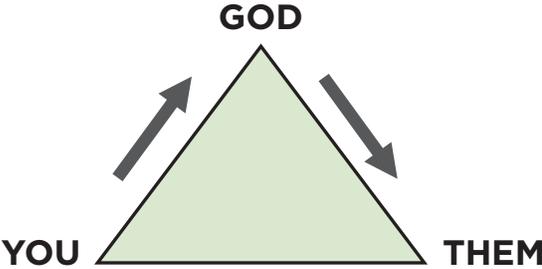
Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that human community is wonderful, but we all only really need Jesus Christ.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, every functioning member of a team contributes vitally to its success. Jesus could meet all our needs in isolation, but He has chosen not to. He works through people. Mutual human need is the genius of God. It produces synergism for great teams, companies, families, and churches.

IV. “Mediating grace” opens up for us the reality of the “triangle of life” (1 John 4:19-20).

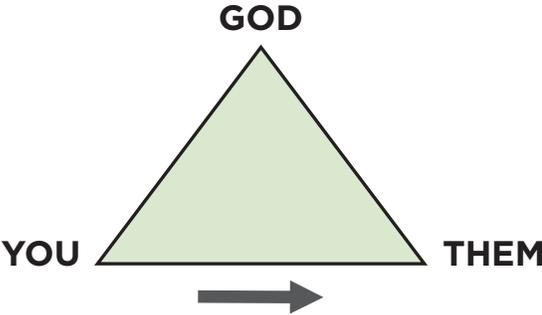
A. In reality, all relationships involve you, them, and God.

1. Diagram of the Triangle of Life

a. Self-consciously relating to others with God fully in the equation:



b. Relating directly to others unconcerned with God being in the equation:



2. As Christians in business, as in all of life, we must practice living with God in this relational triangle and build this ethic into all relationships that can “hear it.”

B. We advocate that all ongoing relationships have some agreed-upon form of “rules of engagement” for meeting structures and conflict resolution.

1. Love “runs on rails,” that is, prior mutual agreements to which we hold all parties accountable.
2. A teaching titled, “The Rules of Engagement,” is available as a supplement to this worldview material.

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that putting God in all relationships is a wonderful idea for Christians; Why don’t they live like it?
Key Business Applications	The truth is, our most important “witness” at the workplace is keeping Christ at the center of all relationships. More than words, however, our life must measure up to what we say we believe.

V. As we see God’s love mediated to us through others, it connects us to Him in new and deeper ways.

- A. As we have seen, salvation, productivity, and deeper life are found in the context of community.
 - 1. The New Testament takes us into an “us” lifestyle (1 John 1).
 - 2. Isolation or non-relational thinking is a form of hell.
- B. All of these concepts obviously take us into the foundational issue of creating desirable and productive organizational “climates.”
 - 1. The internal organizational climate will be exported externally!
 - 2. This raises the critical distinction of the kind of business or service you offer:
 - a. A functional transaction mode: product focus, low relational component.
 - b. A relational transaction mode: high relational component to the product or service use.
- C. All these issues raise another important subject which we can only mention here—the righteousness-consciousness distinctive.
 - 1. “Righteousness” has to do with my standing before God.
 - 2. “Consciousness” has to do with my awareness of how others affect me and how I affect them.
 - 3. All of us, especially Christians, need to work on our “relational IQ.”

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that relationships are very important as a path toward self-fulfillment.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, organizational leaders and managers are responsible for the heart of the organization which is the relational climate of the enterprise. While relationships may produce external benefits and a certain sense of personal value, the goal of relationships must not be self-serving.

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Worldview for the Marketplace: Audio 6

Mediating Grace
BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

Homework:

1. What does it mean when you say that Christ alone mediates salvation, but God can also mediate other ministering gifts through people?
2. Why is mutual need the “glue” of community and family?
3. Explain the “triangle of life” in your own words.
4. How conscious are you of God mediating His grace to your family through you?

Quiz:

- 1. Worldview for the Marketplace - Master Principle #6: We grow in God by _____.**
 - a. shielding ourselves from criticism
 - b. strict adherence to biblical law and routine confession of sins
 - c. always making group decisions
 - d. caring for people and things

- 2. Human community is wonderful, but we really only need Jesus Christ.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

- 3. While work relationships may produce external benefits and a certain sense of personal value, the goal of these relationships must not be self-serving.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

Worldview for the Marketplace: Audio 7

Jurisdictions, Authority, and Proprietorship:
Understanding the Nature of a Winning Team
BY DENNIS PEACOCKE | THREEFOLD CORD: LIVING AND BUILDING
RELATIONALLY



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MASTER PRINCIPLE #7:

Functioning biblical government is essential for lasting productivity.

KEY CONCEPTS:

God models His Kingdom government structures for all mankind in every cultural and historical context.

- 1. Within the Trinity (our building pattern), God models a functioning team of co-equals who execute their goals through division of labor.*
- 2. Godly government produces empowerment, proprietorship, and prosperity, whereas ungodly government produces frustration, disengagement, and poverty.*
- 3. The five functioning spheres of government must be biblically interrelated for God's Kingdom to manifest properly.*
- 4. The Church universal is operating wherever believers are manifesting their ministries in faith, whereas the local church is a specific place of belonging and equipping.*

MARKETPLACE MINISTRY APPLICATION:

A sound organizational structure balances executive authority with group ownership and promotes this model in all spheres for its members.

- 1. A healthy authority/management model balances executive authority with group participation and a division of labor.*
- 2. In the long run, organizational health and profit are the inevitable result of good government.*
- 3. A healthy business organization emphasizes health in all five spheres of government for all members.*
- 4. Believers are to give themselves to the "assembling together of the saints" and their ministry in the marketplace as their calling requires.*

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Worldview for the Marketplace: Audio 7

Jurisdictions, Authority, and Proprietorship: Understanding the Nature of a Winning Team

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

Key Scriptures: Genesis 1:2, 26; 12:1-3; 18:17-19; Exodus 20:15-16; Leviticus 19:35-37; Deuteronomy 5:16; 12:8; 16:18-20; 17:14-20; 19:14; 24:19; 1 Samuel 13:1-14; Proverbs 16:32; 25:28; Isaiah 1:23; 9:7; Ezekiel 45:9-12; Matthew 6:10; 8:21-22; 15:4-7; 16:18-19; 18:15-20; 24:14; Luke 22:24-27; John 1:14, 5:19-20, 30; 14:26, 28; 16:7, 13; 17:all; Acts 14:23; 20:17; Romans 6:1-8; 8:17; 13:1-7; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; 11:1-3; 12:4-6; 15:28; 2 Corinthians 10:13-16; Galatians 1:6-10; Ephesians 1:18-23; 2:10; 4:all; 5:22-24; Philippians 2:1-11; Colossians 1:18-22; 1 Timothy 3; 5:8, 17; Titus 1:5; 3:9-11; Hebrews 1:3; 1 Peter 2:13-14; 5:1

I. Master Principle #7: Functioning biblical government is essential for lasting productivity.

- A. This lesson deals with a number of critical issues relative to building organizational effectiveness, harmony, and individual fulfillment.
 - 1. The biblical foundations for government are found within the Trinity as we have noted in several lessons. Our mandate is to build all things after God's patterns.
 - 2. Biblical principles are not culturally relative; truth cuts across all cultures.
- B. We will be dealing with God's methodology of "separated powers" in the five spheres of God-ordained human government.
 - 1. These issues will also touch the balancing tension of executive authority and group participation in organizational decision making and execution.
 - 2. We will also discuss the concepts of the Church Universal, the Church Triumphant, and the local church.

II. Within the Trinity, our pattern for building, God models a functioning team of co-equals who execute their goals through a division of labor (Genesis 1:2; Isaiah 9:7; Matthew 6:10; 24:14; Luke 22:24-27; John 1:14, 5:19-20, 30; 14:26, 28; 16:7; 13:all; 1 Corinthians 11:1-3; 12:4-6; 15:28; 2 Corinthians 10:13-15; Philippians 2:1-11; Colossians 1:18-22; Hebrews 1:3).

- A. In Christ, we are called to manage godly principles, not cultural norms or relativism.
 - 1. While cultures may be in conflict, truth is not.
 - 2. Cultural sensitivity is not the same as cultural compliance. God's Kingdom culture and government is our common future (Isaiah 9:7).
- B. Without structure, rules, authority, and agreement (i.e. government), God's Kingdom on earth cannot be realized, even initially (Matthew 24:14).
 - 1. Government precedes peace as Isaiah 9:7 declares.
 - a. Godly government produces order, initiative, safety, and progress.

- b. When man’s government replaces God’s government, there is disorder, dependency, peril, and regression.
- 2. The Godhead is the source of all life; out from it God extends His created beings’ entry into His government, covenants, and life destiny.
 - a. God uses the principles of government (unified purpose, division of labor, service to others, humility, and respect for others) within Himself. In order to follow his Creator, man must likewise embrace the laws of God’s government for himself.
 - b. Godly government, if followed, creates for man an atmosphere of peace and creativity that blesses God and allows man to follow His destiny.
 - c. The new birth in Christ is a transfer of governmental allegiance from the government of self and Satan to the government of God and His Kingdom.
- 3. The government within the Trinity models and embodies what we must submit to and what we must extend to others (Matthew 6:10).
 - a. There is hierarchy in the Godhead and God’s government.
 - b. Christ is submitted to Father’s authority (John 14:28; 1 Corinthians 11:1-3) even though He is fully God Himself (Philippians 2:1-11) (Ontological equality).
 - c. The Holy Spirit is under the Father and the Son’s sending authority (John 14:26; 16:7) (Economic subordination).
 - d. The Son lives to exalt the Father (1 Corinthians 15:28); the Father lives to exalt the Son (Colossians 1:18-22); and the Holy Spirit lives to exalt Jesus (John 14:26; 16:13) because their government is based on service (Luke 22:24-27).
 - e. Their government has spheres of labor; the Father directs the plans (John 5:19-20, 30); the Son incarnates the plans (John 1:14) and holds them together by the power of His Word (Hebrews 1:3); and the Holy Spirit energizes the plans (Genesis 1:2; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6).
 - f. Proper order always recognizes the appropriateness of spheres of labor (2 Corinthians 10:13-15).

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that models of leadership and management of tasks must constantly adapt to fit the needs of the organization and its surrounding culture.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, a healthy authority/management model balances executive authority with group participation and a division of labor.

III. Godly government produces empowerment, proprietorship, and prosperity, whereas ungodly government produces frustration, disengagement, and poverty (Genesis 1:26; Isaiah 9:7; John 17; Romans 8:17; 1 Corinthians 15:28; Ephesians 1:18-23).

- A. Good government precedes and produces peace (order) (Isaiah 9:7).
 - 1. Government (rulership) promotes service, work by design, and people doing what they are designed to do.
 - 2. God’s destiny has been instilled into Christ’s people who will embody God’s rulership within themselves (Romans 8:17; 1 Corinthians 15:28; Ephesians 1:18-23).

- B. Government has three major sources of energy:
 1. It has authority out of the agreement of those in power—the “badges.”
 2. It has the power to enforce that agreement—the “gun.”
 3. It operates through “commissioning,” that is, faith extended and received.
- C. When peace, productivity, and internal-external growth diminish within any organization, government has broken down at its core.
 1. Godly government (following God’s design) functions in council (Genesis 1:26) and under the leadership of the executive function as well (John 17).
 2. Too much focus on the vertical dimension of government (authoritarianism), or the horizontal dimension of government (egalitarianism) throws the “wheel” totally out of balance.

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that authoritarianism is the hallmark of Christianity and has no place in modern workplace authority or management structures.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, organizational health and profit in the long run are the inevitable result of good government.

IV. The five functioning spheres of government must be biblically interrelated for God’s Kingdom to manifest properly (Genesis 12:1-3; 18:17-19; Exodus 20:15-16; Leviticus 19:35-37; Deuteronomy 5:16; 12:8; 16:18-20; 17:14-20; 19:14; 24:19; Proverbs 16:32; 25:28; 1 Samuel 13:1-14; Isaiah 1:23; Ezekiel 45:9-12; Matthew 6:10; 8:21-22; 15:4-7; Acts 14:23; 20:17; Romans 6:1-8; 13:1-7; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; 2 Corinthians 10:13-16; Galatians 1:6-10; Ephesians 2:10; 4:all; 5:22-24; 1 Timothy 3; 5:8; 17:all; Titus 1:5; 3:9-11; 1 Peter 2:13-14; 5:1).

- A. There are three major structures of government as revealed in Scripture:
 1. Family government (Genesis 12:1-3, 18:17-19; Deuteronomy 5:16; 1 Timothy 5:8).
 2. Church government (1 Corinthians 5:9-13; Galatians 1:6-10; Ephesians 4; Titus 3:9-11).
 3. Civil government (Deuteronomy 16:18-20; Isaiah 1:23; Ezekiel 45:9-12; Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-14).
- B. Two additional spheres of government revealed in the Bible must also be understood in order to effectively disciple a nation:
 1. Self-government (Proverbs 16:32; 25:28; Romans 6:1-8; 1 Timothy 3:5).
 2. Commercial government (Deuteronomy 24:19; Ephesians 2:10; Titus 1:5).
- C. Let us look at all five of these spheres.
 1. Self-government:
 - a. Freedom begins with self-government under God.
 - b. Self-government allows us to obey God by taking control of ourselves and submitting all our will and power to His disciplines.
 2. Family government:
 - a. The husband is to be in authority within the sphere of family government but function in full counsel with his wife (Ephesians 5:22-24).
 - b. The family unit is the basic building block of a healthy society.

- c. Unresolved self-government or family government problems end up under the authority of the civil government.
- 3. Church government:
 - a. Church government functions both locally through pastors and elders (Acts 14:23; 20:17; 1 Timothy 3; 5:17; Titus 1:5; 1 Peter 5:1) and extralocally through Christ's ascension gifts of Church equipping through apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers (Ephesians 4:11-12).
 - b. All five of these gifts interface locally and extralocally to help bring the people of God to maturity.
- 4. Civil government:
 - a. Civil government is biblically detailed in the Old Testament (Deuteronomy 16:18-20; 17:14-20; Isaiah 1:23) and reconfirmed in the New Testament (Romans 13:1-7).
 - b. Civil government is primarily concerned with maintaining peace, order, protection, and justice for the community and nation.
- 5. Commercial government:
 - a. Commercial government within our modern law base has extensive rights and responsibilities (Exodus 20:15-16; Leviticus 19:35-37; Deuteronomy 19:14; 24:19).
 - b. As noted, the stewardship of private property is essential to personal and social maturity.
- D. Tyranny within the five spheres of government is a historical problem and centers in the notion of balance and imbalance and staying within assigned borders (2 Corinthians 10:13-16).
 - 1. Tyranny occurs when one sphere of government superimposes its authority on another sphere and limits that sphere's ability to function.
 - 2. Tyranny is a constant issue in human history in many forms:
 - a. Tyranny through misplaced self-government (Deuteronomy 12:8).
 - b. Tyranny through misplaced family government (Matthew 8:21-22).
 - c. Tyranny through misplaced Church government (Matthew 15:4-7).
 - d. Tyranny through misplaced commercial government (Fascism).
 - e. Tyranny through misplaced civil government (1 Samuel 13:1-14).
 - 3. We believe that there are five major strategies for building a godly nation:
 - a. Freedom begins with self-government under God.
 - b. The family unit is the basic building block of a healthy society.
 - c. The local church is the primary equipping center for effective Christian service.
 - d. The stewardship of private property is essential to personal and societal maturity.
 - e. Rebuilding a nation begins with rebuilding local communities.
 - 4. We must understand the nature of true freedom and how tyranny works to destroy it.

- a. Freedom is defined as the condition of peace, harmony, and productivity resulting when God’s government is functioning as He intends (Matthew 6:10).
- b. Freedom means serving God’s purposes unhindered by sin.
- c. Tyranny means that some form of rebellion against God-ordained government has taken place. This usually occurs by the illegal accumulation of power or rights by subordinates (rebellion) or by one sphere of government over another (usurpation).

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that religious views of a comprehensive, unified social government are the enemy of free democratic societies.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, a healthy organization emphasizes health in all five spheres of government for all members. Free democratic societies can only succeed where there is God-ordained government, beginning with self-government under God.

V. The Church Universal is operating wherever Believers are manifesting their ministries in faith, whereas the local church is a specific place of belonging and equipping (Matthew 16:18-19, 18:15-20).

- A. Some important closing comments on the nature of the Church are in order.
 - 1. The word “church” only occurs twice in the gospels (Matthew 16:18, 18:17).
 - 2. The word “Church,” used by the Holy Spirit to communicate a critical part of the identity of God’s people, is the Greek word “Ekklesia.”
 - 3. The Ekklesia was a Greek civil governing body, not a religious body.
 - 4. The word “Ekklesia” literally means “those called out” or elected to rule. It has nothing to do with buildings. It is a judicial body (Matthew 16:19; 18:15-20). There are major implications to these truths.
- B. The Ekklesia has three major manifestations:
 - 1. The Church Universal (all earthly believers).
 - 2. The Church Triumphant (the saints with Christ).
 - 3. The local church (where Believers act and live in specific spiritual community).
 - 4. Wherever Believers are (e.g., the workplace) some dimension of Church is operating there because those elected by God to rule are there!

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Worldview for the Marketplace: Audio 7

Jurisdictions, Authority, and Proprietorship:
Understanding the Nature of a Winning Team

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

Homework:

- 1. Explain how both co-equality and submission are practiced simultaneously within the Trinity.**
- 2. From memory, list and describe the five jurisdictions of human government that were discussed in this lesson.**
- 3. Explain the difference between the local church and the Church Universal.**
- 4. How does government work in your own family? What is the division of labor in the home and with the children?**
- 5. Explain how the Trinity is our “model in all things” as followers of Christ.**

6. **What are the three major sources of governmental energy?**

7. **How is productivity and profit directly linked to the quality of government in the organization?**

8. **In what ways should the principles of co-equality and division of labor impact the determination of employees' salaries or wages?**

9. **Give some examples of how tyranny in the workplace (people assuming responsibility outside of their sphere) impacts the growth and development of workers in your company and the work environment.**

Quiz:

1. **Worldview for the Marketplace - Master Principle #7: _____ is essential for lasting productivity.**
 - a. Fear of punishment
 - b. Functioning biblical government
 - c. Cultural compliance
 - d. Financial incentive

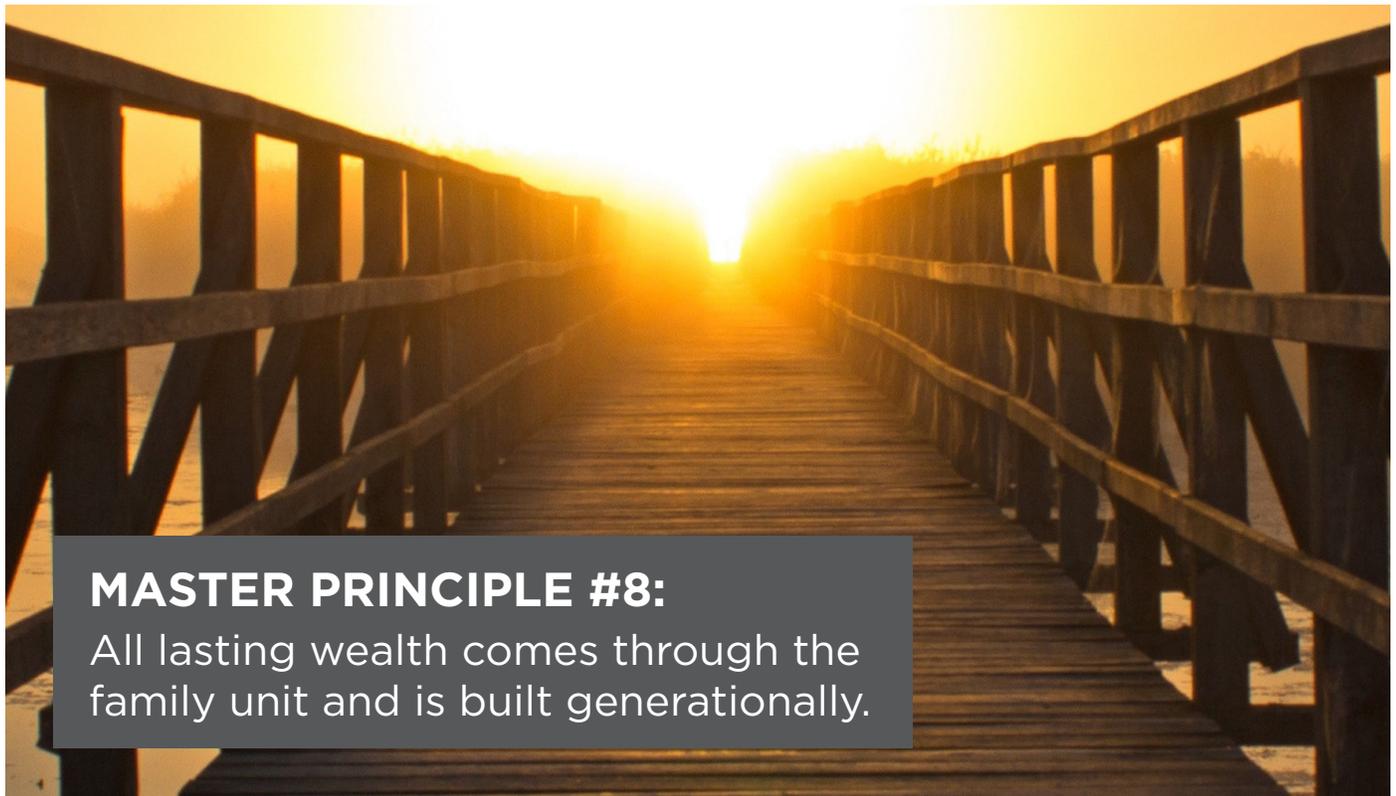
2. **In the long run, organizational health and profit are the inevitable result of good government.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

3. **A healthy authority/management model balances executive authority with group participation and a division of labor.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

Worldview for the Marketplace: Audio 8

How Big Is Your Vision?

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE | THREEFOLD CORD: LIVING AND BUILDING RELATIONALLY



MASTER PRINCIPLE #8:

All lasting wealth comes through the family unit and is built generationally.

KEY CONCEPTS:

How to build multi-generational organizations which are faithful to the intent of their design and fathers.

1. The size of our vision is related to the race we are running: is it a solo race or a relay race?
2. Generational transfer requires the building of a mentoring/discipling climate within the organization.
3. The DNA of any organization determines what it can be even with progressive grafting.
4. The family unit is the biblical foundation of lasting wealth structures with godly character as its ongoing legacy.

MARKETPLACE MINISTRY APPLICATION:

The heritage and vision of an organization create a climate of excellence, honor, and stability through a spirit of fatherhood.

1. A God-birther organization usually requires multiple generations of leaders to fulfill the vision of its fathers.
2. Discipling-mentoring is the leverage point that transmits excellence and vision throughout a company and across time.
3. God-birther creations adapt and progress but they do not evolve into something totally different (new divisions; vertical integration).
4. Strong family units are the backbone of any successful organization.

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Worldview for the Marketplace: Audio 8

How Big Is Your Vision?

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

Key Scriptures: Genesis 1:11; 12:3; Deuteronomy 6:20-25; 2 Samuel 18:18; Psalm 78:1-7; Jeremiah 6:16; Habakkuk 2:2; Malachi 4:4-6; Matthew 11:28-30; 12:48-50; 28:18-20; Luke 9:1-10; John 5:17, 19, 20, 24, 30; 16:7; 17:18-19; 1 Corinthians 4:17; 11:1; 12:18; Ephesians 4:15-16; Philippians 3:12

I. **Master Principle #8: All lasting wealth comes through the family unit and is built generationally (Genesis 12:3). This lesson deals with the legacy we will leave to our families, churches, businesses, nations, and friends.**

- A. Our vision is built on one of two general concepts:
 - 1. What I can achieve myself utilizing all that is around me, including people, as components of my vision.
 - 2. What I can achieve as a team-member building with my family, jointed spiritual family, workplace partners, fellow citizens, and friends.
- B. These two different paths are built on significantly different motives, ethics, and goals.
 - 1. The “self-achievement” model serves self and empowers others as a by-product
 - 2. The “team-achievement” model empowers others and self-empowerment becomes the by-product.
 - 3. This teaching is about helping you see which path you wish to take.
- C. Our statement concerning lasting family wealth built generationally rests on these assumptions:
 - 1. “Riches” are about material things of value which are essential only in relation to our calling’s need for riches.
 - 2. “Wealth” is about God’s blessings of provision, spiritual and natural. What is the monetary value of a Christ-honoring lineage?

II. **The size of our vision is related to the race we are running; is it a solo race or a relay race (Deuteronomy 6:20-25; 2 Samuel 18:18; Psalm 78:1-7; Jeremiah 6:16; Habakkuk 2:2; Malachi 4:4-6; Matthew 11:28-30; John 16:7; 17:18-19).**

- A. An example from the 1996 Olympic Games:
 - 1. Sprinter Donovan Bailey set an Olympic record of 9.84 seconds for the 100 meters.
 - 2. In the same Olympics, three of the four winning 4 x 100 meter relay men ran faster.
 - 3. The empowerment in a “running start.” The passing lane is critical!
 - 4. Vision is about dead starts and running starts.
- B. The “running start” is Christ’s way, the way of “generational transfer.” It is the ancient path (Jeremiah 6:16; Matthew 11:28-30).

1. Let us illustrate this concept of building generationally, using the example of “cathedral thinking.”
 - a. Make the plans: a vision spanning generations. A vision which can be finished in one lifetime is too small!
 - b. Plant the trees your sons and grandchildren will use.
 - c. Accumulate the resources. Examples: David → Solomon; Jesus → Twelve → Paul → us.
 - d. Envision the generations with your vision; share your heart (Malachi 4:4-6).
- C. What does it take to shape a heart?
 1. There must be a clear vision (Habakkuk 2:2) which excites commitment beyond one lifetime.
 2. The vision must be shaped and shared by at least two generations (Deuteronomy 6:20-25).
 3. There must be a lifestyle and climate of a revealed heart and a sense of history: What was, is, and can be. Example: the story of Dennis Peacocke’s ring.
 4. There must be shared responsibility in the context of discipleship (John 17:18-19).
 5. There must be rejection of the lie that “every generation must find their own truth.”
- D. Here is the biblical ideal (Psalm 78:1-7):
 1. Fathers formulate.
 2. Sons demonstrate.
 3. Grandsons authenticate (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob).
 4. Great-grandsons administrate.
- E. Men and women who have no “sons” wrongly build monuments to themselves! (2 Samuel 18:18)

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that because of the competitive nature of the marketplace, individual performance is the key to realizing our personal dreams.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, God-birthered organization usually requires multiple generations of leaders to fulfill the vision of its fathers.

III. Generational transfer requires the building of a mentoring-discipling climate within the organization (Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 9:1-10; John 5:17, 19, 20, 24, 30; 1 Corinthians 4:17; 11:1; Philippians 3:12).

- A. The concept of “generational transfer,” in the context of any organization, requires that it become a “learning organization.”
 1. A learning organization highly values relationships and works on them to keep communication clear and current.
 2. A learning organization (family) focuses on its vision, goals, ethics, and methodologies, and keeps them at the center of their relationships.
 - a. “Vision”: Where we are going and why?
 - b. “Goals”: Road markers of achievement on the way to fulfilling the vision.

- c. “Ethics”: The relational, moral, and motivational rules by which we all agree to play.
 - d. “Methodologies”: The procedures and systems we agree to use to help us fulfill the vision.
- B. Christ modeled for us all the “methodology” of His vision: being the Father’s human disciple.
1. Jesus is our pattern in life in all things; His pattern is discipleship (John 5:17, 19,20, 24, 30).
 2. The twelve apostles followed Jesus in His pattern: That is why they were called “disciples.”
 3. Paul followed Christ’s pattern (1 Corinthians 4:17, 11:1).
 4. “Christian” is used three times in the New Testament; “disciple(s)” is used over 250 times!
 5. A disciple is a “disciplined learner,” removing that which doesn’t belong.
- C. The discipling methodology has four main identifying aspects or phases:
1. Studying the skills of your mentor: I do, you watch.
 2. Apprenticeship: We do together.
 3. Ownership: You do, I watch (Luke 9:1-10).
 4. Reproduction: you go make disciples and reproduce the methodology (Matthew 28:18-20).

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that every new leadership team must be free to build with a new vision.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, discipling-mentoring is the leverage point that transmits excellence and vision throughout a company and across time. Greater strength to a family, church, or business vision comes when current leaders (parents, pastors, CEO’s) mentor-disciple those for whom they are responsible.

IV. The DNA of any organization determines what it can be even with “progressive grafting” (Genesis 1:11; Philippians 3:12).

- A. In Genesis Chapter One, God uses the phrase ten times, “after its kind.” This is not done anywhere else in Scripture.
1. He was obviously making a point about evolution.
 2. He is also making a point about what He authorizes, creates, or permits: If it comes from God, it has design, purpose, and destiny (DNA).
- B. Discovering the DNA of any organization is essential to its success.
1. Do you have a “building permit” to build this? How do you know?
 2. What was in God’s mind when He issued the permit?
 3. How do our current resources and provision, customers, technology, etc. confirm or challenge our sense of DNA?
 4. How will proposed changes (partners; products; customers; core definitions; PR changes; etc.) challenge, change, or confirm our DNA?

- C. Knowing what business you are in is square one; seeing related adaptations is square two and sometimes critical.
 1. Children aren't identical to their parents, but they are a totally related product of 100% of their DNA.
 2. "Tissue rejection" and "blood type compatibility" should tell us something about how God builds.

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that all successful companies in a fast-paced technological market must be able to "morph" quickly.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, God-birthered creations adapt and progress, but they do not evolve into something totally different (new divisions; vertical integration).

V. The family unit is the biblical foundation of lasting wealth structures with godly character as its ongoing legacy (Genesis 12:3; Malachi 4:4-6; Matthew 12:48-50; 1 Corinthians 12:18; Ephesians 4:15-16).

- A. Biblically speaking, marketplace ministries are linked to family businesses.
 1. Even the word "economics" comes from the Greek word, *ekios*, which means household management.
 2. Successful business ventures may go outside of the natural family, but they must be with those God has "jointed us with" (Ephesians 4:15-16) to be blessed of God.
- B. Genesis 12:3 speaks of the family unit as God's human conduit for blessing.
 1. Godly family dynasties are Satan's worse nightmare. Examples: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph.
 2. Being a spiritual family in Christ (Matthew 12:48-50) that is made up of our natural families should be our prime goal in life!
- C. Here are some interesting facts from the mid-1990s on family businesses in the United States:
 1. 80-90% of all US companies are family firms.
 2. 40-60% of the US Gross National Product is generated by family firms.
 3. 500,000 private US companies have 20-plus employees; virtually all of those companies are family businesses.
 4. 40-60% of our country's largest publicly held companies are under family control.
 5. Family businesses account for over half of the nation's employment and new job creation.
 6. Family businesses are large and small; one single family business, Ford Motor Company, accounts for 1% of the GNP.
 7. If we removed government spending then the GNP, employment, and job creation would be substantially higher.
 8. Publicly traded family businesses out-performed Standard and Poor's 500 stock index by more than 50%.
 9. 18% of financial assets held by US households are invested in privately held concerns—\$2.4 trillion more than households invested in public companies.

10. 31,000 family-held businesses have annual sales of \$25 million or more.
11. The average life span of family businesses is 24 years, about the same as the career of the founder.
12. Only about 4 million (30%) make it to the second generation.
13. About 450,000 businesses must be created each year to replace family businesses that have not survived.

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that capitalism's success is based on the strength of the corporation model.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, strong family units are the backbone of any successful organization.

FIND US FAITHFUL
By Steve Green

We're pilgrims on the journey of the narrow road
 And those who've gone before us line the way
 Cheering on the faithful, encouraging the weary
 Their lives a stirring testament to God's sustaining grace

Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses
 Let us run the race not only for the prize
 But as those who've gone before us
 Let us leave to those behind us
 The heritage of faithfulness passed on through godly lives

CHORUS

Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful
 May the fire of our devotion light their way
 May the footprints that we leave lead them to believe
 And the lives we live inspire them to obey
 Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful

After all our hopes and dreams have come and gone
 And our children sift through all we've left behind
 May the clues that they discover and the memories they uncover
 Become the light that leads them to the road we each must find

GoBusiness100 | Lesson 22

Worldview for the Marketplace: Audio 8

How Big Is Your Vision?

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

Homework:

1. How is generational transfer critical to your family fulfilling God's purposes and desires for it?
2. How is mentoring important for the effective transfer of knowledge, wisdom, and character from you to your children?
3. Why is the family unit the foundation of generating lasting wealth?
4. To what degree does the way you relate to your spouse and children facilitate generational transfer?
5. What clear examples of generational transfer can you identify in your family history?

6. **Make a list of both the “riches” and the “wealth” you are accumulating for your children. Are you satisfied with this list?**

7. **In what ways is your company practicing generational transfer? What can be done to strengthen this practice and make it more strategic?**

8. **What business stewardship skills that you apply at work can be applied to the training of your family?**

9. **Taking a moment for examination, are you operating in alignment with the “DNA” of your organization?**

Quiz:

1. **Worldview for the Marketplace - Master Principle #8: All lasting wealth comes through _____ and is built _____.**
 - a. the ability to change in a fast-paced market; on the principle of adaptability
 - b. individual performance; by perseverance and hard work
 - c. dependable investments; on solid financial advice
 - d. capitalism’s success; on the corporate model
 - e. the family unit; generationally

2. **Every new leadership team must be free to build with a new vision.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

3. **A God-birthed organization usually requires multiple generations of leaders to fulfill the vision of its fathers.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

Worldview for the Marketplace: Audio 9

God Loans, Transfers, and Takes Away

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE | THREEFOLD CORD: STEWARDSHIP SKILLS



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KEY CONCEPTS:

Properly caring for God's people and things is at the center of God's heart for His children.

1. Private property is a concept established and modeled by God.
2. Since God created and owns all things, private property is actually a stewardship trust by man of God's things.
3. We grow by caring for people and things; the stewardship of private property is essential to cultural maturity.
4. What God gives us, no man can take away; what we take for ourselves we cannot keep.

MARKETPLACE MINISTRY APPLICATION:

The ethics of the private sector substantially determine both the maturity and longevity of the surrounding culture.

1. Personal investment and a sense of personal responsibility are the spiritual origin of what we call "profit" (economic theory; profit-sharing; socialism proprietors).
2. The management of "private property" is ultimately a trust not a right (eminent domain theory; fiduciary theory; corporate law).
3. Stewardship skills are the engine of economic growth (capitalism; business training; promotion theory).
4. Material gain through greed instead of service, empowerment, and stewardship skills corrupts the culture (business ethics; taxation theory; private sector theory, marketing-advertising).

GoBusiness100 | Lesson 23

Worldview for the Marketplace: Audio 9

God Loans, Transfers, and Takes Away

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

Key Scriptures: Genesis 1:26-28; 2:5, 15, 19; 3:8-9; Leviticus 18:24-25, 27, 28; 20:22; 26:34-43; Numbers 18:20-32; Deuteronomy 9:4-5; 16:12-15; 2 Samuel 6:1-7; 2 Chronicles 36:21; Job 38:4-24; 42:11; Psalm 2:8; 9:5; 24:1; Proverbs 19:23; 24:1; Jeremiah 2:7; 3:2; 12:4; 16:18; Hosea 4:1-3; Matthew 13:12; Luke 16:10-12; John 14:15; 21:15-17; Acts 17:26; 1 Corinthians 4:7; Colossians 1:15-18; 2 Timothy 2:24

I. Master Principle #9: God is the Author and Creator of all “private property” (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:5, 15, 19; 3:8-9; Numbers 18:20-32; Deuteronomy 16:12-15; Job 38:4-24; 42:11; Psalm 2:8; 24:1; Colossians 1:15-18). This lesson deals with issues related to the concepts of “private property,” ownership, stewardship, and how God gives and takes away according to His will and our obedience.

- A. The heart of Judeo-Christianity is the truth that our Creator has placed us on His earth to steward it for Him according to His “rules,” and that He desires to disciple us in the process (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:5, 15, 19; 3:8-9).
 - 1. While man is God’s vice-regent on earth, disobedience often brings dispossession.
- B. Our goals for this study lesson should be the following:
 - 1. To better understand the awesome authority and responsibility God has given to us.
 - 2. To have a broader and deeper understanding of the reality that disobedience threatens all that we have built as individuals, families, companies, and even nations.

II. Private property is a concept established and modeled by God (Job 38:4-24; 42:11; Psalm 2:8; 24:1; Colossians 1:15-18).

- A. As clearly stated in the above Scriptures, God owns all things, .
 - 1. Rebellious mankind rejects the concept of a Creator because it carries with it both the reality of accountability to that Creator and the limitations of man’s ownership.
 - 2. As we will discuss in this lesson, man truly owns nothing.
- B. God, in asserting His ownership of all things, legitimizes the concept of private property.
 - 1. If “owning things” is a sin, God is the chief of sinners.
 - 2. Jesus became poor for a season and a reason, and then returned to being the owner of all private property! (Colossians 1:15-18)
 - 3. Social philosophers like Marx and Rousseau called all private property “theft,” and this whole issue is yet to be fully resolved in the public dialogue.
 - 4. Of all the world’s major religions, Christianity alone has theologies of economics and private property.
- C. Property issues inevitably lead to the discussion of “social justice,” property rights

of individuals, and the role of civil government to redistribute wealth through taxation and confiscation.

1. This is why biblical jurisdictional government is critical to this discussion. Biblically, civil government is not to originate charity but simply pass individual's charity along to the needy (Numbers 18:20-32; Deuteronomy 16:12-15).
2. Biblical law is to be the foundation of all social justice. In a secular society, "justice" becomes arbitrary.
3. To take from a person what is rightfully theirs by virtue of lawful investment or labor is organized civil theft and extortion.

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that all private property is ultimately theft from common humanity by the culturally dominant.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, personal investment and a sense of personal responsibility are the spiritual origin of what we call "profit" (economic theory, profit-sharing, socialism, proprietors). Private property is a concept established and modeled by God. The stewardship of private property produces maturity.

III. Since God created and owns all things, private property is actually a stewardship trust by man of God's things (Proverbs 19:23; Matthew 13:12; 25:14-30; 1 Corinthians 4:7; 2 Timothy 2:24).

- A. All we have in terms of natural or spiritual talents and gifts, time, relationships, or possibilities are gifts from God.
 1. I do not believe in "humility," I believe in reality. If you are in reality, you will be humble.
 2. Pride is ignorance parading as power.
- B. God does not want us to take pride in our stewardship over His things.
 1. He wants us to be humbled by the gift, responsible to the Giver, obedient with the fruits, and generous to those in need.
 2. He wants us to bring increase to all the gifts, relationships, and material things He has put into our hands (Matthew 13:12; 25:14-30).
 3. He wants us to be "satisfied" in our souls and spirits with the measure of dominion God has allowed us to see (Proverbs 19:23).
- C. God wants to disciple us into all things (mastery), especially caring for His people.
 1. That is what the two trees in the garden were all about: independent learning (the tree of the knowledge of good and evil) or relationally based learning (the tree of life).
 2. Three supreme questions for those desiring to grow in stewardship skills:
 - a. How much can you manage without corrupting your values or ethics?
 - b. How much can you manage without dehumanizing yourself and other people, i.e., relating to them as objects or as a means to an end?
 - c. How much can you manage without living in destructive anxiety (2 Timothy 2:24)?

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that man is free to do whatever he wills with what he freely owns.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, the management of “private property” is ultimately a trust, not a right (eminent domain theory; fiduciary theory; corporate law). All that we own is a gift from God to be stewarded according to His principles and truth.

IV. We grow by caring for people and things; the stewardship of “private property” is essential to cultural maturity (2 Samuel 6:1-7; Luke 16:10-12; John 14:15; 21:15-17)

- A. God gave us relationships and things to care for because they not only teach us skills and lead to wisdom, they reveal our love for God and others.
 - 1. Jesus said, “If you love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15). If I love Him, I will care for His people (John 21:15-17) and things as well.
 - 2. When we handle His ark (special projects or people), we should do so with great care! (2 Samuel 6:1-7)
- B. That which is owned by everybody is owned by nobody.
 - 1. Ownership/stewardship carries with it the proprietorial spirit of active caring.
 - 2. Socialistic/communistic nations have given us a tragic living example of the poverty spirit produced by removing the reality of personal responsibility for things.
 - 3. Welfarism produces the same poverty spirit and lack of stewardship growth skills. As a result, Matthew 13:12’s law of stewardship (“use it or lose it”) comes into play.
 - 4. Neither individuals nor nations can come to maturity without a full and energetic balance between personal stewardship skills and enabling-giving skills.
- C. The private sector (marketplace) is the social “moral compass” of economic society.
 - 1. If corruption operates in the marketplace, man’s labor-reward values become cynical and man removes his heart from his work, producing a “sick” soul.
 - 2. When the economic game is “rigged,” trust and investments cease.

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Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that ideally, as John Lennon says in the song “Imagine,” that there should be no nations, and that man should share all things.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, stewardship skills are the engine of economic growth (capitalism; business training; promotion theory). God Himself establishes nations and determines who stewards them. Likewise, He apportions private property within a nation, providing an opportunity for individuals to mature in a variety of areas.

V. What God gives us no man can take away; what we take for ourselves we cannot keep (Leviticus 18:24-25, 27, 28; 20:22, 26:34, 43; Deuteronomy 9:4-5; 2 Chronicles 36:21; Psalm 9:5; Jeremiah 2:7, 3:2, 12:4, 16:18; Hosea 4:1-3; Acts 17:26).

- A. Because God owns all things, and all possibilities, what we take for ourselves rather than receive from Him, is a form of theft or illegal acquisition.

1. Therefore it cannot be honored or kept in the long run.
 2. Wisdom is to recognize the doors and opportunities God has opened for us, not doors opened by ourselves, our greed, or need for control, or those sins operating through someone else.
- B. These laws of God’s release on loan, transferring to others, and taking away, operate not only on individuals and companies, they operate on national levels throughout history as well.
1. Since God owns all the land and resources of the earth, He gives them to nations and takes them away for disobedience (Deuteronomy 9:4-5, among many).
 2. He especially takes land away from those people who shed innocent blood through human sacrifice, cruelty, abortion, and murder (Leviticus 18:24-25, 27, 28; 20:22; 26:34, 43; Deuteronomy 9:4-5; 2 Chronicles 36:21; Psalm 9:5; Jeremiah 2:7; 3:2; 12:4; 16:18; Hosea 4:1-3; Acts 17:26).
 3. As you can see from Leviticus 26:34, 43 and 2 Chronicles 36:21, God dispossessed Israel from its land for a season for not letting it rest under Sabbath law.
 4. One of the great cries of the “native peoples” are their charges of dispossession. Every “native group” over the last 2,000 years took the land from someone else! The real issue is that God determines who stewards His lands and their borders (Acts 17:26).

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that what we do not take for ourselves, someone else will.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, material gain through greed instead of service, empowerment, and stewardship skills corrupts the culture (business ethics; taxation theory; private sector theory; marketing-advertising).

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Worldview for the Marketplace: Audio 9

God Loans, Transfers, and Takes Away

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

Homework:

- 1. In what way does God Himself legitimize the concept and practice of private property?**
- 2. What is the difference between ownership and a “trust?” What spiritual attitudes follow this distinction, and why are they important?**
- 3. Why is the stewardship of private property essential to human growth?**
- 4. To what degree is the principle of stewardship practiced in your life and encouraged in your family?**

- 5. Revise and personalize the “three supreme questions for those desiring to grow in stewardship skills” found in this lesson, being sure to examine where you are in the family/business. What is one thing in each of these areas that will encourage growth in your life toward godly stewardship?**

- 6. Give examples of things God has given you that you are sure you haven’t taken for yourself or “earned?”**

- 7. Identify and give examples as to how “social justice” is being practiced where you work? What is the fruit?**

- 8. Consider ways that the “powerful” might enable the “less powerful” in the marketplace.**

- 9. What are some of the impacts on a nation when its people are committed to “political correctness” and the “equality of all cultures” at the expense of biblical truth? What might believers do to mitigate this problem?**

Quiz:

1. **Worldview for the Marketplace - Master Principle #9: God _____**
“private property.”
 - a. is the Author and Creator of all
 - b. is critical of man’s desire for ownership of
 - c. teaches us in the Bible that we should all have an equal share of ownership in
 - d. is unconcerned with our stewardship of

2. **All private property is ultimately theft from common humanity by the culturally dominant.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

3. **All that we own is a gift from God to be stewarded according to His principles and truth.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

Worldview for the Marketplace: Audio 10

Where Is the Value?

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE | THREEFOLD CORD: STEWARDSHIP SKILLS



MASTER PRINCIPLE #10:
Service is the foundation of every successful ministry.

KEY CONCEPTS:

What God values for people is what Christians in the marketplace should excel in providing for them.

1. *Whoever truly serves, leads.*
2. *Believers are to value and promote what God values and promotes, not what mammon values and promotes.*
3. *“Success” is related to our service to God; if we truly serve Him, He releases fruitfulness to our assigned tasks and destiny.*
4. *Successful people and organizations live in the question, “Where is the value in what we are doing?”*

MARKETPLACE MINISTRY APPLICATION:

Christian business ethics are grounded in service and in values aligned with God’s ethics that flow both internally and externally.

1. *Internal service to employees and investors, and external service to customers and business partners, determines the true value of the company (stock evaluations, etc.).*
2. *The true service and value of any enterprise is the degree to which its products and services embody God’s purposes for people (product and service ethics and quality).*
3. *“Success” is blessing with our actions what God wants our customers to receive from us (compensation and pricing levels, etc.).*
4. *Value theory and pricing requires us to be clear and stay clear on exactly what our goods and services are providing and what ethically serves the customers.*

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Worldview for the Marketplace: Audio 10

Where Is the Value?

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

Key Scriptures: Deuteronomy 6:6-9; Matthew 6:24-34; 7:12; 13:22; 22:37-40; John 14:6; Acts 17:26; 1 Corinthians 13; Philippians 3:12

I. Master Principle #10: Service is the foundation of every successful ministry.

- A. This lesson concerns itself with what all of us hopefully know and are endeavoring to practice: serving God and people by caring for their needs, God's way. We will be examining God's revealed heart of love through His enabling nature.
 - 1. Love must ultimately be defined as enabling people to fulfill their lives and destiny in God's will for them.
 - 2. God blesses people and organizations that operate through His principle of love (1 Corinthians 13).
- B. We will also be dealing at length with the various concepts surrounding the notion of "value."
 - 1. We will attempt to define some of the things God says He values.
 - 2. We will deal with the alleged "relativity" of value.
 - 3. We will discuss the truth that successful people and organizations are focused on bringing true value to all they touch.

II. Whoever truly serves leads (Matthew 7:12; John 14:6).

- A. The so-called "Golden Rule," properly understood, truly is golden.
 - 1. From God's vantage, "doing unto others" means treating them according to His standards, not ours. Ours are often seriously flawed, to be kind.
 - 2. If you truly love someone, you will give them (to the best of your ability) what the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit say they need, rather than what they say they need.
- B. Aspects of biblical servant leadership:
 - 1. It should not be selfishly motivated by the Machiavellian notion of "stooping to lead." That is, we should not be serving so as to capture those we serve.
 - 2. It should not promote disrespect for authority or the executive function of decision making by promoting pure democracy. The Kingdom of God is not a democracy.
 - 3. It should maximize self-government, ownership, and group input.
 - 4. It should model godliness, accountability with consequences and rewards, and a disciplined lifestyle.
- C. Leadership is designed by God "to cut a path and show a way to live, think, and act" (John 14:6).

1. This should be true of us in our families, churches, and all organizations in which we influence or participate.
2. Business or industry leaders are not true leaders because they are the first to do or achieve something; rather they are leaders if they demonstrate a new way of creating more value for more people in a more efficient manner.

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that service can be an important means to achieving one's goals. Beyond that, value and beauty are in the eye of the beholder. If people want it, sell it.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, internal service to employees and investors, and external service to customers and business partners, determines the true value of the company (stock evaluations, etc.). Serving others must be done according to God's standards and with the correct motives.

III. Believers are to value and promote what God values and promotes, not that of mammon (Matthew 6:24-34; 13:22).

- A. "Mammon" is commonly understood by those who have studied this issue to be a demonic personage in the ancient world.
 1. If this is true, Mammon is a being who is closely linked with controlling the financial systems of Satan's world government.
 2. It is also true that this spirit makes us "anxious" over our material possessions (Matthew 6:25-34) and drives us with a spirit of "never enough." (The series, Walking in Financial Freedom, by our friend and spiritual colleague, Earl Pitts, provides excellent teaching on this subject.)
 3. This "anxiousness" is also a prime cause for a weak or failing walk in Christ (Matthew 13:22).
- B. Wise Christians will leave businesses, investments, or services that cater to vanity, pure materialism, greed, novelty, or impurity.
 1. We should not expect God to bless or support enterprises catering to man's fallen nature.
 2. As God continues to judge materialism, greed, dishonest financial reporting, and our exportation of sin around the world, it is good to now connect with honest people and honest products and services before the flood water rises.
- C. Additionally, Believers should be thinking about three things in terms of creating a more biblical social-economic system:
 1. The creation of "Christian economics" with high turn-over of internal goods, services, and barter.
 2. "Gleaning" possibilities for the needy.
 3. Discipling and apprenticing for qualified people as a part of their academic training.

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that business should be about giving people what they want and stimulating their need for it.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, the true service and value of any enterprise is the degree to which its products and services embody God's purposes for people (product and service ethics and quality).

IV. Success is related to our service to God; if we truly serve Him, He releases fruitfulness to our assigned tasks and destiny (Acts 17:26; Philippians 3:12).

- A. As Acts 17:26 tells us, God has created a design and destiny not only for individuals, but for whole nations and people groups.
 - 1. “Value” or “success” must then be measured against God’s design and destiny for individuals, families, churches, businesses, nations, and people groups.
 - 2. This concept raises the question of the need to discover God’s intended purpose for people, things, and organizations and to follow the DNA of that discovery, keeping that DNA as the guideline for how we serve them in fulfilling their destiny.
- B. “Success,” therefore, becomes a relative term as measured against the question, “What was in God’s mind for creating this?”
 - 1. The Apostle Paul shares his driving motivation to discover God’s DNA for his own life in Philippians 3:12: “I don’t mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection, but I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me.”
 - 2. To maintain a focus on what I am not called to do is a form of failure.

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that success is measured by achieved personal goals and the attainment of the means to do as we desire.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, success is blessing with our actions what God wants our customers to receive from us (compensation, pricing levels, etc.). Real success must be measured against God’s design and destiny for an individual, family, church, business, nation, or people group.

V. Successful people and organizations live in the question: “Where is the value in what we are doing?” (Deuteronomy 6:6-9)

- A. As discussed, value is based on God’s values and purposes, not man’s.
 - 1. God’s values must not only become our ethical standard, but be that which we promote so others might also appreciate their value.
 - 2. Therefore, our goods and services should have an “evangelistic” dimension to them; they should carry God’s values in how they are promoted, produced, and priced.
- B. Our business organizations should continually stand in the following questions, the answers to which require appropriate evaluation:
 - 1. Are we educating those in the organization on the values of what we seek to be and sell to others? How do we test/prove this?
 - 2. Are we “catechizing” our people in these values so that those values become a part of who they are? (Deuteronomy 6:6-9 as a methodology)
 - 3. Are we surveying our clients and customers to see if they are getting the values we want them to see in what we are doing or providing?
 - 4. Is our internal and external communication clearly promoting these values, and how are they showing up in what we offer?
 - 5. Are we wholistically building on a business model that presses us into this reality?

THE THREEFOLD CORD OF CAUSE, COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY:



Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that the bottom line is the bottom line.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, value theory and pricing require us to be clear, and stay clear, on exactly what our goods and services are, and that they serve our customers ethically.

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Worldview for the Marketplace: Audio 10

Where Is the Value?

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

Homework:

1. Why does genuine service lead to greater responsibility?
2. Define “biblical success.” What does this look like for your family?
3. Why is it important that we all live in the question, “What is the true value in this activity or service?”
4. How are you biblically serving your family, church, work, and nation?

Quiz:

- 1. Worldview for the Marketplace - Master Principle #10: _____ is the foundation of every successful ministry.**
 - a. Strong leadership
 - b. Service
 - c. Attainment of consistent financial support
 - d. Drawing a large audience

- 2. Value theory and pricing require us to be clear, and stay clear, on exactly what our goods and services are, and that they serve our customers ethically.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

- 3. Success is measured by achieved personal goals and the attainment of the means to do as we desire.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

Worldview for the Marketplace: Audio 11

The Economics of Obedience and Boundaries

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE | THREEFOLD CORD: STEWARDSHIP SKILLS

MASTER PRINCIPLE #11:

God pays for what He orders.



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KEY CONCEPTS:

While God expects us to bring increase, we cannot do so in our own will or presumption.

1. While God is infinite, He has set limits and boundaries for man to discover and respect.
2. Faith functions when we see our general task and ministry in God and then begin to “fill in the space” (dominion).
3. Our faith is forged by learning to do our assignments God’s way, in God’s timing, through obstacles, limitations, and adaptations.
4. Faith is a “team sport” beginning with God and you, then extending from you to those whom you are assigned/jointed.

MARKETPLACE MINISTRY APPLICATION:

God honors growth that is done His way, in His timing, and facilitated by His will.

1. Sound business practices demand that we stay within our resource base relationally, financially, technically, and executionally.
2. “Faith,” relative to growth and risk, is tied to obedience, patience, and seeing God’s provision as the key to timing.
3. Trials, in some form, always accompany obedience-based growth; the issue is, what are the lessons in the trials?
4. Expansion and growth nearly always require consensus from key leaders that is real, not performance-based.”

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Worldview for the Marketplace: Audio 11

The Economics of Obedience and Boundaries

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

Key Scriptures: Genesis 3:5; 6:19; 11:1-9; 1 Samuel 17:4-51; Psalm 19:13; 131; Proverbs 1:1-7; Isaiah 14:13; 1 Corinthians 12:27; 2 Corinthians 10:14-17; Ephesians 4:12-16; Hebrews 11:1; James 1:2-8; 2 Peter 1:3; 2:10; Jude 1:9; Revelation 22:2

I. Master Principle #11: God pays for what He orders (Psalm 19:13; 2 Peter 1:13). In this study, we will deal with the critical issues of true growth rather than presumption, and how to apply faith personally and with those around us.

- A. All living, healthy organizations experience growth.
 - 1. Lasting growth comes from discovering and building with God's provision.
 - 2. Growth that disappears or damages us and others is the result of missing God's provision and presumptuously creating our own provisions.
- B. In our fallenness, man wants the power to "ascend" beyond limits and be a god (Genesis 3:5; Isaiah 14:15).
 - 1. The Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9) and the above Scriptures are "exhibit A" of man's quest to glorify himself and be transcendent.
 - 2. The Tree of Life (Revelation 22:2) is the source of God's provision in Christ for mankind, and that "tree" is rooted in our fear of acting independently from God, outside of His boundaries and provisions (Psalm 19:13).

II. While God is infinite, He has set limits and boundaries for man to discover and respect (Psalm 131; 2 Corinthians 10:14-17; 2 Peter 2:10; Jude 1:9).

- A. As we have just noted, where God guides, He provides.
 - 1. Our protection from presumption is living in the reality that God pays for what He orders.
 - 2. When opportunities arise without provision and we choose to create our own provision through strife, debt, untested relationships, or manipulation, we will live to regret it.
 - 3. Fiat money and personal, corporate, and national debt are all examples of man "playing God," unless they are expeditiously retired.
- B. As the Apostle Paul notes, over-extending our relational investments or personal ministries and gifts is another form of resisting God's limits and boundaries of safety for us (2 Corinthians 10:14-17).
 - 1. Expansion beyond God's borders for us leads to personal and financial judgment.
 - 2. The more resources we have, the more careful we must be not to "make things happen" that God has not asked of us!
- C. God's boundaries of safety are also set for our protection from illegal speech (2 Peter 2:10) and meddling in issues that do not pertain to us (Psalm 131).

1. God has set boundaries of speech even against evil authorities (Jude 1:9).
2. Getting involved in problems and issues that don't belong to us (fall outside our sphere) is a recipe for frustration, misspent time, and anxiety.

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that whatever man can imagine, properly equipped, he can do.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, sound business practices demand that we stay within our resource base relationally, financially, technically, and executionally.

III. Faith functions when we see our general task and ministry in God and then begin to “fill in the space” (dominion) (Proverbs 1:1-7; Hebrews 11:1).

- A. “Faith” is not following our own will while using God’s name. Faith is seeing God’s will for a situation and partnering behind Him to make it happen (Hebrews 11:1).
 1. The risk in faith is being careful not to put God’s name on our own will.
 2. As previously noted, obedience is doing God’s will, God’s way, in God’s timing.
- B. Dominion or rulership comes out of us as a result of the wealth of skills and wisdom God allows us to build (Proverbs 1:1-7).
 1. Man does not obediently rule through the resources of material riches; he rules through skill (wisdom) and discipline (instruction).
 2. Riches cannot pass through death, but death has no hold on wealth.
- C. Borders and walls are the support structures around where we are called to live and rule.
 1. A house without walls or a roof is an unprotected shell, not a house.
 2. Borders keep me in, but they keep my enemies out as well!

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that spiritual “faith” is subjective hope and that real faith is courage and tenacity applied to a task.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, faith, relative to growth and risk, is tied to obedience, patience, and seeing God’s provision as the key to timing.

IV. Our faith is forged by learning to do our assignments God’s way, in God’s timing, through obstacles, limitations, and adaptations (James 1:2-8).

- A. Learning to walk within God’s borders and provisions is a major part of our journey here on earth. When we fail, meet roadblocks or obstacles, here are the issues:
 1. “Lord, what are You saying to me in all of this, and what do You want me to learn?”
 2. “Is this trial due to self, Satan, or You, and how do You want me to respond?”
- B. In this journey, God uses pressures to help us see new levels of reality and new paradigms that will take us to the next level of spiritual effectiveness.
 1. Current paradigms sometimes become obstacles to our next level of growth. Pressure and trials often force us to abandon them and embrace new ones.
 2. When we see the new paradigms God’s Spirit wants us to see, it is often amazing how quickly obstacles are resolved!

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that “I did it my way” is the sound of personal security and self-actualization, both of which are required to succeed.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, trials, in some form, always accompany obedience-based growth; the issue is what are the lessons in the trials? True success is secured when doing our assignments God’s way, in God’s timing.

V. Faith is a “team sport” beginning with God and you, then extending from you to those whom you are assigned/jointed (Genesis 6:19; 1 Samuel 17:4-51; 1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 4:12-16).

- A. The concept of God’s borders or limits also applies to the issue of with whom God does and does not want us build.
 - 1. As Ephesians 4:12-16 points out, spiritual authority is given to us to help us define and clarify those to whom God has joined us for common labor.
 - 2. God uses common vision and common purposes to bond people together in a common response to His “sound” (Genesis 6:19).
- B. Shalom, or “peace,” in Hebrew means more than we commonly understand.
 - 1. It means having the power to make proper agreements with the right people.
 - 2. It also means having the ability to resolve successfully your issues and conflicts with those whom God has called you to labor.
- C. Building organizations, or family, requires a common commitment to the agreements of your “community.”
 - 1. Christ is building a Church, not a loose-knit group of individuals (1 Corinthians 12:27).
 - 2. Community requires “citizenship,” that is, the common ascent to transcendent values which members agree to abide by and mutually reinforce.
- D. Seeing things God’s way allows us to go beyond the limits which have stopped others as David models so clearly with Goliath (1 Samuel 17:4-51).
 - 1. David, unlike his brethren, didn’t care how tall and intimidating Goliath was.
 - 2. As a prophetic voice, and because he had practiced stewardship by protecting the sheep with his sling, he demonstrated that the battle is the Lord’s and that faith overcomes fear.

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Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that teamwork is critical, but assignments and their “teams” come and go.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, expansion and growth require, almost always, consensus from the key leaders that is real, not “performance-based.”

GoBusiness100 | Lesson 25

Worldview for the Marketplace: Audio 11

The Economics of Obedience and Boundaries

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

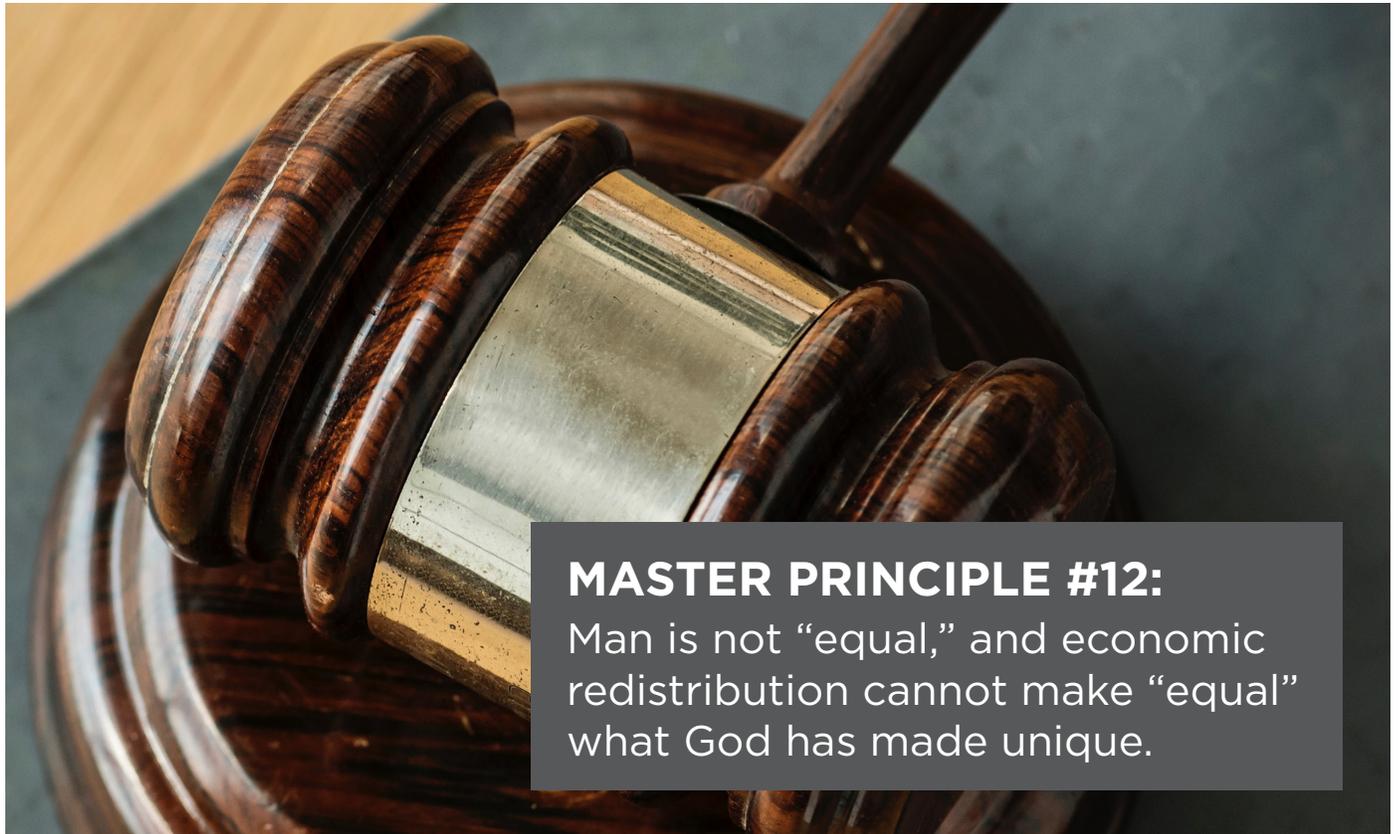
Homework:

1. Why should boundaries be important to us?
2. Explain the concept of biblical dominion. How is this concept different from domination or exploitation?
3. Explain in your own words what makes faith a “team-sport?”
4. What are some of the boundaries that you recognize in your life and in your family that are intended to help you fulfill God’s purposes for your lives?
5. What are three examples of presumptuous sins that you can identify in your life? What have been the consequences?

Worldview for the Marketplace: Audio 12

The Beauty of Justice

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE | THREEFOLD CORD: STEWARDSHIP SKILLS



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KEY CONCEPTS:

Kingdom theology demands that believers function in justice and righteousness both personally and socially.

1. Christians are expected by God to become righteous and just, and to extend righteousness and justice to all they touch both personally and socially.
2. God has created all people uniquely, yet He has set His standards that apply to all mankind.
3. Biblically, charity and investing in people are two distinctly different assignments.
4. Biblical economics forces individuals, companies, and nations to wrestle with the question, “How much is enough?”

MARKETPLACE MINISTRY APPLICATION:

As individuals and organizations we must practice fulfilling the financial base required to fulfill our ministry and wisely release the overflow.

1. God expects organizational justice and righteousness internally and externally.
2. Being unique or in a “special business or situation” does not place us above God’s laws or man’s laws.
3. Businesses need to practice investing in people and extending charity to people in godly ways.
4. An individual or an organization should only retain “enough” capital to fulfill its God-ordained mission.

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Worldview for the Marketplace: Audio 12

The Beauty of Justice

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

Key Scriptures: Numbers 23:22; Psalm 82; 89:14; Proverbs 3:27; 12:10; 27:20; 30:15; Ecclesiastes 1:8; 4:8; 5:10; Isaiah 11:4; 55:2; Habakkuk 2:5; Haggai 1:6; Matthew 4:4; 20:10-15; 26:11; Mark 8:36-37; Luke 12:48; 15:14-24; Romans 13:7; 14:10; James 2:1-16

I. Master Principle #12: Man is not “equal,” and economic redistribution cannot make “equal” what God has made unique (Proverbs 3:27; 12:10; Isaiah 11:4; Matthew 4:4; 26:11; Luke 12:48; Romans 13:7; 14:10; James 2:1-9-16). This critical lesson deals with man’s personal and social responsibilities in the context of a fallen world (“the poor you have with you always” -Matthew 26:11) and a world where God has created all people with certain unique characteristics and, therefore, inherent inequalities.

- A. “Unequal” and “unique” are relative terms.
 1. To have “more” means greater responsibility to both God and man (Luke 12:48).
 2. “Injustice,” on the other hand, means to deny someone what God wants us to share with them (Proverbs 3:27; Romans 13:7; James 2:15-16).
- B. As we go through this teaching, we should remember these major truths:
 1. Justice favors neither the rich (James 2:19, among many) or the poor (Isaiah 11:4, among many).
 2. Obedience to God is required of all mankind (Matthew 4:4; Romans 14:10).
 3. God is into uniqueness and individuality, as clearly manifested in His creation.
 4. If done outside of God’s will, trying to “help people” may actually hurt them (Proverbs 12:10).
 5. Justice is not about trying to make everyone “equal.”

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that “justice and righteousness” are relative concepts: personally, socially, and anthropologically.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, God expects organizational justice and righteousness both internally and externally. Justice and righteousness are as important to God in the institutions of our culture as in the area of personal morality.

II. Christians are expected by God to become righteous and just and to extend righteousness and justice to all they touch personally and socially (Psalm 82; 89:14).

- A. As the Scripture notes, God’s throne rests on the foundations of justice and righteousness (Psalm 89:14).
 1. God’s standards of justice and righteousness are specifically revealed in the Scriptures.

2. God expects His people to be His instruments of justice and righteousness on the earth. We are His “hands and feet” as well as His judges (Psalm 82).
- B. Our friend, Carl Ellis, has made a simple yet profound diagram which I have modified, displaying our responsibilities to personal and social righteousness and justice:

	RIGHTEOUSNESS	JUSTICE	JUSTICE ISSUES
Our Personal Commitments Regarding:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Character • Purity • Obedience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relational & community selflessness • Biblical conflict resolution • Modesty • Avoiding Gluttony 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gossip • Law breaking • Slander • Unforgiveness
Our Social Commitments Regarding:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freedom from racism, sexism, denominationalism, materialism, etc. • Empowerment of others • Charity toward others • Active citizenship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being informed and active relative to the biblical rights of others • Working to extend God’s Kingdom into all spheres of human life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abortion • Welfare • Slavery • Drugs • Etc.

III. God has created all people uniquely, yet He has set His standards that apply to all mankind (Matthew 4:4).

- A. As previously mentioned, different gifts mean different destinies, skill levels, economic consequences, living standards, etc. Examples: scientists, professional athletes, movie stars, “average people.”
1. Not only do our gifts make us “unequal,” so do our genetic and spiritual heritages from our parents.
 2. Somehow, a just God reserves for Himself the right to judge how all these apparent differences work out to ultimate justice and appropriateness.
- B. Beyond all this, our personal or social inequalities are largely worked out by the following responses we have to diligent work, personal discipline, obedience to God, relational skills, and commitments to others.



Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that “uniqueness and skilled effort” can qualify individuals for special treatment on the basis of social injustice.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, being unique or in a “special business or situation” does not place us above God’s laws or man’s laws.

IV. Biblically, charity and investing in people are two distinctly different assignments (Numbers 23:22; Proverbs 12:10; Luke 15:14-24).

- A. In our humanistic zeal toward those less materially advantaged as individuals and as a culture, we are often in confusion over the differences between charity and investments.
 - 1. “Charity,” which is a biblical mandate, is the act of giving to others without any expectation of return or thanks.
 - 2. “Investments” are the release of resources into people or organizations where the expectation is that the investment will help produce a new level of productivity in the recipient. It may also bring a return to the giver based on prior mutual agreements.
- B. An excellent Bible study is to review all the Scriptures related to poverty and giving.
 - 1. Proverbs is full of Scriptures related to the causes of poverty and its cures.
 - 2. Cutting people out of their “cocoon” often interferes with what God is doing to bring them to greater repentance and life (Luke 15:14-24).

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that unless we support the poor in their lifestyle, we have no heart, let alone right, to have more.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, businesses need to practice investing in people and extending charity to people in godly ways. While true charity is a biblical mandate, God has enumerated the causes and cures of poverty in His Word, and supporting someone who is choosing a lifestyle of dependence on others may interfere with what God is doing to bring them to greater repentance and life.

V. Biblical economics forces individuals, companies, and nations to wrestle with the question, “How much is enough?” (Proverbs 27:20; 30:15; Ecclesiastes 1:8; 4:8; 5:10; Isaiah 55:2; Habakkuk 2:5; Haggai 1:6; Mark 8:36-37).

- A. One of the essential challenges of gaining or seeking to gain resources or perceived power is dealing with the question, “How much is enough?”
 - 1. Jesus makes it clear that “enough may cost us our souls” (Mark 8:36-37).
 - 2. The Scripture is also clear that there is never “enough” for people with certain spiritual maladies (Proverbs 27:20; 30:15; Ecclesiastes 1:8; 4:8; 5:10; Isaiah 55:2; Habakkuk 2:5; Haggai 1:6).
- B. Materialism and the spirit of mammon demand that our lives be spent on accumulating and using a never-ending amount of things.
 - 1. I remind you of teaching number nine and the question of “enough” relative to what you can truly manage in God:

- a. How much can I manage without corrupting my values and ethics?
 - b. How much can I manage without dehumanizing myself and other people?
 - c. How much can I manage without living in destructive anxiety?
2. All these questions are answered by, “only enough to fulfill my God-ordained mission.”
 3. For more in-depth teaching on the question of “enough” and to learn about the concept of a “closed circle,” I highly recommend Earl Pitts’ personal finance series, Walking in Financial Freedom.
- C. The beauty of justice is this:
1. God perfectly gives us the circumstances and opportunities to succeed or fail according to our responses and His will.
 2. The pattern on the front side of the rug looks very different from the one on the back!

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that what I fairly acquire is mine to do with as I will.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, an individual or an organization should only retain enough capital to fulfill its God-ordained mission. It is God who gives us the power to create wealth and He expects steward that wealth, whether small or great, according to biblical principles and with a heart of obedience.

GoBusiness100 | Lesson 26

Worldview for the Marketplace: Audio 12

The Beauty of Justice

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

Homework:

1. In what ways are men and women not created “equal?”
2. In your own words, discuss the concept of biblical justice.
3. Discuss the differences between charity and investment.
4. To what degree do you and your family understand the distinctions of equality discussed in the previous questions? Consider taking time to discuss these issues with your family.

Quiz:

1. **Worldview for the Marketplace - Master Principle #12: Man is not “equal,” and economic redistribution cannot make “equal” what God has made _____.**
 - a. unequal
 - b. unique
 - c. unworthy
 - d. similar

2. **Uniqueness and skilled effort qualifies individuals for special treatment on the basis of social injustice.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

3. **Unless we support the poor in their lifestyle, we have no heart, let alone right, to have more.**
 - a. True
 - b. False