



Lesson 1 GoBusiness100 | Intro Module 1 Called by God to Steward His Creation, Part I BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

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MASTER PRINCIPLE:

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

KEY IDEAS:

- Private Property
- Work as worship
- Strategic Thinking
- Dualism
- Teleology
- Stewardship
- Character and Maturity

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Note: In this teaching, Dennis references the Master Principles from *The Freedom Series*; these are the same Master Principles from the book/audiobook, *Doing Business Gods' Way*, which you will study later in this course.

I. Overview and key ideas:

- A. Private property is God's idea!
The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. —Psalm 24:1
- B. God fellowships with man by giving us stewardship over His possessions.
- C. God gives us increased responsibility through incremental growth and opportunity.
- D. There are idols and religious deceptions we must address to truly apply these principles.
Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition. —Matthew 15:6b
- E. We must build according to God's pattern and design (Exodus 25:8-9).

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RELIGIOUS DECEPTION #1: *God doesn't care about the material world.*

↳ **TRUTH:** *God fellowships with man by giving us stewardship over His possessions.*

RELIGIOUS DECEPTION #2: *As a business professional, your calling is secondary or inferior than that of someone "called to ministry."*

↳ **TRUTH:** *Everyone's work is meant to be a ministry.*

RELIGIOUS DECEPTION #3: *Christians are not empowered until they die.*

↳ **TRUTH:** *What empowers us in God is covenantal obedience over a prolonged period of time.*

RELIGIOUS DECEPTION #4: *Work is a curse.*

↳ **TRUTH:** *Work is a holy, everlasting calling.*

II. Key principle: God brings His servants to maturity by making them His work partners (Genesis 1:26-28).

- A. As Christians in business, we must ask the question, "How do I build my employees into a work partnership with me?"
 - 1. Unity comes from sharing goals, mutual responsibility, and time.
- B. A common spirit is built by three things:
 - 1. Shared RESPONSIBILITY
 - 2. Shared VISION
 - 3. Shared TIME
- C. 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; Revelation 17:8).
 - 1. Strategic thinking comes with maturity.
 - 2. "Teleology" definition: *the study of the end of things or where things are going; natural processes directed toward an end or shaped by purpose; the reason or explanation for a goal, end, or purpose*
 - 3. Strategic thinking involves:
 - a. Thinking from the end back to the beginning
 - b. Resource planning: procurement, allocation, and deployment of assets
 - c. Holding to your game plan under pressure (complexity is impossible without well-executed basics)

(For more resources on strategic thinking, visit www.gostrategic.org/strategicthinking)

- D. Power is found in sharing knowledge, ability, and authority with God over some portion of His creation.
 - 1. God's destiny is to expand His Kingdom through His family business (Ephesians 1:18-23).
 - 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).

III. Key principle: Power is guarded by problems.

- A. The Holy Spirit uses problems to teach us how to apply God's word and grow.
- B. There is a tragedy in pre-mature promotion or inheritance (Luke 15:11-32, The Prodigal Son). Power in God's family business is awarded based on faithfulness.
- C. Problems should draw out of us courage, creativity, dependency, knowledge, patience, tenacity, team work, and character.
- D. Problems cleanse us from selfish ambition, presumption, and ignorance.
- E. The Church will be cleansed by problem solving (Ephesians 5:26-27).

IV. Key principle: Work is a holy, eternal calling.

- A. If you have Christian employees, you should require more from them than you would if they were unsaved (See Luke 12:48).
- B. God first reveals Himself as a creator, a worker, and an entrepreneur.
 - 1. Work preceded sin and the Fall.

2. Jesus taught that work is eternal (John 5:17, 19-20).
 3. God is an assigner of work.
- C. The promise of a work-free heaven is a heresy. Heaven is a place where God's on-going work is done more efficiently because sin is removed.
1. This heresy of a work-free heaven reveals our anti-work ethic.
 2. What God dislikes is not work but "un-hired men" (Matthew 20:1-15). The tragedy shown in this parable is unhired people with idle lives.
- D. God has called us to work with Him in building character, skills, and relationships that will pass on to the next age.
1. Our work will be tested (1 Corinthians 3:9-15).
 2. Possessions do not pass through death; character and skills do (Matthew 6:19-20). These skills and character attributes include:
 - a. Godly motives
 - b. Godly ethics
 - c. Proper recognition of spheres
 - d. Service orientation
 - e. Leadership skills
 - f. Stewardship skills
- E. A Christian's vocational call may be different from their ecclesiastical call.
1. The Apostle Paul's vocation was tent making (Acts 18:3; 1 Thessalonians 2:9) ,while his ministry was apostolic.
 2. The Apostle Peter had a united call of "full-time ecclesiastical work."
 3. Some people have two callings: a ministerial call in the business world and an ecclesiastical call in the church world.

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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?**

- 6. From this lesson, what will we take into eternity?**