

# Spheres of Societal Transformation

## Business/Market Place/Economics



### **Rationale/ Background**

God is at work transforming people and nations through business. Kingdom business is an effective mission strategy for the 21st Century. Kingdom businesses are for profit business ventures that reflect God's holiness and righteousness for people, churches, and nations.

Based on the observation that biblical teaching demonstrates that God cares about transforming people's spiritual, social and economic conditions, kingdom business is committed to transforming nations and advancing the kingdom of God through a comprehensive ministry. It addresses spiritual, economic and social ills that plague many people in developing countries.

Biblical principles in business transforming a nation are considered below. Moral standards and mutual accountability can revolutionize a nation's business climate. The role of Christian business people is unique and far-reaching. They interact with major segments of the adult population; they are instrumental in the generation and distribution of wealth; they exert significant influence over public policy; and, they give credibility (or denial) to many of the great themes of Scripture.

### **Working Vocational Mission Statement (OT Template)**

To develop an economy where needed goods and services are provided for the community along with gainful employment at fair market price and wage.

### **Principles**

For understanding and applying the Christian worldview in the field of business and occupations, all Christian business people are called first and foremost to glorify God with the totality of their lives. This means living a holy life of obedience to the Bible, fulfilling one's role in the Body of Christ, which will include a constant seeking of commitments to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord among their acquaintances and then helping new believers to get started on the road to spiritual maturity.

For Christian business people the road of life and ministry as a servant of God in the marketplace means understanding and embracing the following principles:

1. **BUSINESS AS A CALLING:** The calling of God to function as a servant in the role of a Christian businessman is a high calling, it requires great personal commitment, and when a person is called

to function in business, God will grant as much of his blessing and grace to his endeavors as he would to any other calling, including to those occupations normally considered "full-time" ministries.

2. POSSESSIONS AND OWNERSHIP: God owns all that we have; any talents, abilities, and power to make wealth come from him. Whatever success we enjoy is a result of God's blessing and favor. Christians in business must avoid the pride and snares that the Scriptures often warn accompany wealth and worldly success.

3. MOTIVES AND ETHICS: Our business dealings need to be motivated by godly wisdom through seeking counsel, searching the Scriptures for revelation, and seeking God's guidance. The nature of the Christian business enterprise is to strive for God's highest scriptural ethics in all its dealings with employees, customers, suppliers, the civil government, and any other entities with which it interacts. We should model the Christian ethic of loving one another in all our business dealings.

4. STEWARDSHIP: The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it. God entrusts the earth's resources to mankind and requires wise stewardship and full use. As Christians we ought to see our vocation and any wealth obtained from it as a stewardship-a trust from God.

True success is found in taking the resources entrusted to us by God and multiplying and developing them for his purposes and glory. Godly stewardship includes the development of human, natural, financial, and all other resources in accordance with the Scriptures for the advancement of the dominion of God.

5. CHRISTIAN WITNESS: The way we conduct ourselves as Christians in business will be a model of kingdom living and integrity for our whole community. On the one hand the pursuit of excellence, loyal service, a professional approach, and accountability should be shown in our every task and on the other hand, grace, forgiveness, and humility will characterize our conduct. That part of Christian witness is the timely fulfillment of financial and contractual obligations.

6. FREE MARKET ECONOMY PRODUCES MORE JUSTICE IN PRICING AND WAGES THAN ANY OTHER ECONOMIC SYSTEM: A free market economy still depends on the moral governance of Biblical values. We have the entrepreneurial privilege and responsibility to engage in business for profit. Financial reward for our labor is biblical as part of God's promise for diligence (Prov. 14:23).

7. CREATIVITY: Man, in his reflection of the Divine image, is creative; that all true creativity is a reflection of the divine nature; that creative technological inventions, practical discoveries, and advances that enhance productivity and increase use of resources are part of this creative process. All technological advances not contrary to Scripture should be promoted.

8. COMPETENCE: We should study, develop, and implement scriptural business principles and practices in order to honor and glorify the name of the Lord. In competence, Christian business people should also know their craft along with the scriptural principles. There are principles of engineering and medicine that are not 'scriptural' but part of professional competence, even though the created world ultimately reflects God's order.

9. EFFICIENCY AND INTEGRITY: We believe in efficiency and integrity in all practices of business, personal productivity, and safe working conditions.

10. LAW OF THE LAND: The Christian business person is subject to the law of the land and is obligated to obey such law, except when it clearly violates God's Law.

11. CIVIC AND POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITIES: A Christian business person has the civic responsibilities of praying for those in authority and participating in the political process through voting, supporting righteous civic leadership, and seeking elected office as the Lord leads.

12. **SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES:** The Christian business person should take an active and uncompromising position on biblical moral issues such as pro-life, freedom of prayer, anti-pornography, anti-homosexuality, and opposition to any other philosophies or practices not built on godly principles. And, God's burden should be our burden for the poor, the hungry, the naked, those in prison, and those being persecuted for righteousness' sake.

13. **LOCAL CHURCH:** Business people ought to be vitally related to a local fellowship of believers, fully associated with Bible training, evangelism and service.

14. **Biblical Priorities:** Establish and maintain as his/her highest priority to seek the kingdom of God; that this priority is the basis for biblical service; and that it is followed by family and business endeavors.

15. **Business Philosophy:** To be effective as a Christian in business, a believer should be focused on the responsibilities entrusted to him by his employer, while also serving the needs of his customers, employees, co-workers or associates, and suppliers. This includes addressing the spiritual, sociological, psychology, and security needs in addition to physical needs. The Christian business-person seeks daily the Lord's guidance by prayer, Bible study, and godly advice, in every phase of his business, so that God may be glorified in all that he does.

### **Conclusion/ Summary**

God, in his sovereignty, calls men into various duties and stewardship within his Kingdom, giving them differing talents and abilities. It is the full use of those talents that determines success in the eyes of God, who alone holds the scales of success.

Success is much more than the acquisition of material possessions.

While productive output may vary according to the talents and abilities of each individual, each one-working by this standard-will produce godly excellence, thereby increasing and expanding the dominion of God's kingdom on earth.

To be continued...

*Taken from Transform World Manual  
Transform World Connections*

*A call to transformation: transformational streams are becoming one fast-flowing river for the healing of the nations.  
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