

Chapter 8: What You Need to Guard Against In Your Business and Personal Life

1) Guard against unwise partnerships.

1. How can a partnership with someone who does not share my values and priorities result in serious problems?
2. What can I do to prevent entering into an unwise partnership?

2) Guard against the damaging effects of anxiety and stress.

1. Do I tend to stress and worry about materialistic things? Does it affect my work? My relationships?
2. What is my attitude toward the future? What aspect of my life do I need to trust God more in?

3) Guard against being dishonest.

1. Do I act as if the world is watching how I do business?
2. What can I do to overcome the temptation to be dishonest?

4) Guard against envying or coveting the success of those who are evil.

1. Do I envy those who are experiencing success in business but who are also wicked in their ways?

2. Do the promises of God's blessings and future rewards help me against envious thoughts?

3. How do I feel about the contrast in how God handles the wicked from the righteous? Is there something I can do to influence evildoers?

5) Guard against oppressing those who are struggling.

1. Do I see every human being as made in the image of God? If so, how should this influence the way I treat all people?

2. How can I specifically show kindness to those struggling financially?

6) Guard against offensive and illegal behavior.

1. Is my workplace set up to guard against harassment, discrimination, etc?

2. Do I personally hold any prejudicial attitudes?

3. What can I do to keep offensive behaviors from arising in my business?

7) Guard against showing favoritism or undue leniency toward any worker.

1. Do I show favoritism to any employee, co-worker?

2. What are ways I can ensure everybody in my business is treated equally?

8) Guard against employee theft.

1. Do I have clearly stated policies regarding employee theft and its consequences?
2. Are there practices I can implement to prevent employee theft?

9) Guard against improper, suggestive clothing in the workplace.

1. How does appropriate clothing encourage professionalism and productivity? What is appropriate for my specific business?
2. Are there people whom I work with that I need to have a conversation with when it comes to dress code? How can I respectfully go about encouraging change if there is a need?

10) Guard against immorality—both personally and within the workplace.

1. How can I protect myself from falling into sexual sin?
2. What can I do to protect my employees from immorality?

11) Don't overwork or burn yourself out.

1. Is my workload too heavy?

2. Am I carrying responsibilities that need to be assigned to others?

3. How can I delegate wisely?

12) Guard against the dangers of technology.

1. Do I guard against the pitfalls that come along with modern technology?

2. What processes/policies do I need to put in place to protect my employees from the dangers of technology?

3. Do I practice these policies in my own personal life and work?

13) Guard against vicious competitors and enemies—people or businesses that seek to harm you.

1. Do I let my raw emotions take charge in most cases, or do I love, do good, bless and pray for my enemies?

2. Do I expect God to work all things out for good?

14) Guard against the worldly philosophy of self-sufficiency.

1. Do I live and work in my own strength or in God's power?
2. Do I tend to put more emphasis on advancing myself rather than advancing the purposes of God? If yes, why do I do this?
3. Do I trust that God will always help and guide me in tough times?

15) Guard against forgetting God when you become successful.

1. Do I find myself seeking God and praying more often when I am in trouble?
2. Do I regularly reflect on all the ways God has provided for me and gotten me to where I am today?
3. Is it difficult for me to acknowledge the truth that God is the primary and ultimate source of everything I am and have?