

CHAPTER 1

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO SUCCEED PERSONALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY

1. ***Strive daily to glorify God through your business or area of responsibility.***

“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Co.10:31, ESV).

“Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!” (1 Chr.16:28, ESV).

“*Will it glorify God?*” You should always ask yourself this question before making decisions. As Scripture so plainly teaches, everything we do should bring glory to God. Your commitment to glorify God should extend to the way you operate your business, or to the way you conduct yourself in your position of leadership in a business.

In every deal, every contract, every personnel decision, every policy, every response to customers or employees or suppliers—from the largest matters to the smallest—our first concern should be ensuring that our actions or decisions bring glory to God. God is glorified through your business when you...

- conduct business the way He would
- conduct business in a way that pleases Him
- obey His commands in everything you and your business do
- conduct *yourself*—your attitude, words, interactions—in a way that pleases Him
- value other individuals, treating each one fairly and respectfully
- use your business or position to advance the cause of morality and righteousness on earth

- acknowledge Him as the true owner of your business or management position and view yourself as a steward over it
- seek His help and depend fully on Him for everything you need
- give Him the honor and credit for everything you accomplish, every success you attain, for it is God who has given you life and the abilities you have

As you strive to glorify God first in your business, remember that there is no justification for unethical behavior, even for a worthy cause. That is, you should never do anything that does *not* glorify God in order to achieve something that *does*. Paying unfair wages to employees so that you can increase your giving to the church *does not* glorify God. Nor does reducing the quality of a product or service or violating regulations so you can support a ministry glorify God. God is glorified only when every facet of your business pleases Him. This should be your constant goal and driving motivation as you go about running or managing your business day by day.

2. ***Obey God's Word in all things.***

“Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. This Book of the Law [His Holy Word] shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success” (Jos.1:7-8, ESV).

“Therefore keep the words of this covenant and do them, that you may prosper in all that you do” (Dt.29:9, ESV).