

Worldview for the Marketplace

by Dennis Peacocke





GoStrategic

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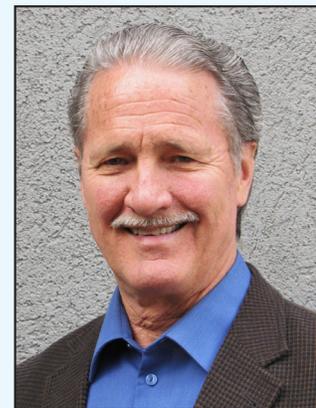
GoStrategic (Formerly Strategic Christian Services)

Founded in 1979 by Dennis Peacocke who serves as President, GoStrategic is a prophetic ministry committed to training and equipping leaders of every cultural sphere in discipling nations and transforming the world. GoStrategic operates internationally, educating Christians through our Business Leadership School and Strategic Life Training correspondence schools, events, educational products, networking, and consulting services. Our ministry headquarters are based in Santa Rosa, California, with affiliates and schools in Mexico, Central and South America, Europe, Asia, and New Zealand.

GoStrategic equips believers to be leaders in the communities where they live, work, and serve. We specialize in bridging the gap between spiritual truth and the practical implementation of those truths in confronting real-world problems. With over three decades of experience educating, modeling, and connecting like-minded individuals, we have seen first-hand the fruit of Christians applying Biblical principles to the most complex challenges. It is our sincere hope that the services we provide result in thousands of communities transformed as believers step in to rebuild, repair, and restore our world. To learn more, please visit our website: www.gostrategic.org

A former business owner, Dennis Peacocke is the founder and president of GoStrategic, a Christian leadership organization dedicated to demonstrating the relevance of Christianity to every area of contemporary life. He has authored four books: *On the Destiny of Nations*, *Winning the Battle for the Minds of Men*, *Doing Business God's Way*, and *The Emperor Has No Clothes*, as well as recorded numerous audio and video presentations.

Dennis and his wife Jan reside in Santa Rosa, California. They have three adult children and eleven grandchildren.



Worldview for the Marketplace

LESSON #1

**Glorifying God
in the War
between
Two Seeds**

LESSON AT A GLANCE

“Glorifying God in the War between Two Seeds”

Threefold Cord: Revelation

MASTER PRINCIPLE #1

Salvation opens the door to living and building in God’s eternal Kingdom.

Key scriptures:

Gen. 3:15; Deut. 28:1-14; Ps. 24:1, 86:11, 89:14, 97:7, 110:all; Prov. 11:14; Eccl. 4:12; Matt. 13:22-30, 16:18-19, 28:18-20; Luke 9:62, 19:13; John 3:3, 5,12,19, 7:17, 8:32, 14:6, 16:7-15, 17:15, 18:36; Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 3:9-15; 2 Cor. 10:3-5; Col. 1:12, 13; Heb. 5:12-14; Rev. 19:7

Key concepts found in this lesson:

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 way we think and reason.
3. As we discover the power of paradigms and presuppositions, we come to understand the saying that “the mind justifies what the heart has chosen.”
4. In our struggle for renewal, we experience the reality of the “war between two seeds.”

How each of these four major teaching concepts generally applies to the marketplace ministries:

Key business applications:

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

1. 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.
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.
4. 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.

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

Romans 8:17

—STUDY, TRAIN, OBEY—

“Glorifying God in the War between Two Seeds”

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 of “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 (Gen. 3:15; Matt. 16:18-19; John 3:3-5,12, 17:15; Col. 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 (Col. 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 (Rom. 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 Cor. 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 (Eccl. 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 (Eph. 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	<i>We are told falsely</i> that, when we are saved, we are to stop investing 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	<i>The truth is,</i> 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 way we think and reason (Luke 19:13; Rom. 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, 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 (Rom. 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 humans, 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	<i>We are told falsely</i> 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	<i>The truth is,</i> 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” (Deut. 28:1-14; Ps. 86:11; Prov. 11:14; John 3:19; 7:17, 8:32, 16:7-15; Rom. 1: 18-32; 2 Cor. 10:3-5; Heb. 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 v. creation; Christianity v. Islam; the scientific method v. fatalism; communism v. 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 v. completed design; Christ as God v. Christ as subordinate prophet; testing v. superstition; dialectical materialism v. 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 (Ps. 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 (Heb. 4:12).
 - c. The Holy Spirit is our teacher (John 16:7-15).
 - d. Decisions should be made or confirmed by reliable counsel (Prov. 11:14).
 - e. We grow in knowledge and discernment by practicing the truth (Heb. 5:12-14) as we become disciplined learners/disciples.
 2. If we do these things, we will prosper (Deut. 28:1-14).

Worldly Deceptions	<i>We are told falsely</i> that scientific facts and reason undergird the real world, whereas religious issues are personal and subjective.
Key Business Applications	<i>The truth is,</i> we must keep our hearts in God’s hands, so as to keep our lives free from self-deception. It is biblical principles that 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” (Gen. 3:15; Ps. 24:1, 89:14, 97:7, 110:1-2; Matt. 4:4, 13:22, 24:30, 28:18; Luke 9:62, 19:13; John 18:36; 2 Cor. 10:3-5; Rev. 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 resources of the earth.
 2. In this war, the Church is to be on offense, not defense (Matt. 16:18) because the earth belongs to Christ (Matt. 28:18; Ps. 24:1). The world-system is the “squatter.”

- B. From the perspective of the cross, resurrection, and ascension (Ps. 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 (Matt. 4:4)?
 3. What is the Church supposed to do on the planet now (Matt. 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**, by Carl Ellis (Ps.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 and 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.

2. Christ is not coming back to rescue us but to promote us as a ready bride and prepared harvest (Matt. 13:30; Rev. 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 the marketplace, in particular!

Worldly Deceptions	<i>We are told falsely</i> 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	<i>The truth is</i> , 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. God owns the world and holds sovereign control over the affairs of men.



CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW QUESTIONS TO HELP CLARIFY AND BRING CHANGE

LESSON ONE

Our goal as believers is to become all Christ wants us to be. In order to do this, we go through the process of transformation. Biblical transformation involves these steps:

- A. Mental understanding of the truth we have seen or heard and active spiritual consent to bring that truth into our lives.
- B. Holding that truth against ourselves and letting it measure us—leading us into repentance and leading us out into a partnering relationship with the Holy Spirit to live out that change.

Asking the right questions facilitates this process. In that spirit, here are some helpful questions for Lesson #1:

- A. Questions for mental clarification:
 1. What are some of the differences, in terms of attitudes and actions, 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” (Gen. 3:15)?
- B. Questions for measuring yourself “against these truths”?
 1. What are the implications in this lifetime to the reality that you have already been “transferred into the Kingdom of God’s Son” (Col. 1:13)?
 2. To what degree are you free from past hurts and future anxieties so that you can live and work in the now?
 3. To what degree are you committed to having your mind renewed so that you can impact others within your area of influence?
- C. Bringing change to the marketplace:
 1. What impact do you see the concept of living and working “in the now” have on workplace productivity? How will you help both yourself and others to live and work in the “now”?
 2. As a Christian, how do you see the Holy Spirit’s ministry, as our primary teacher, helping us move into biblical paradigms regarding the workplace and Christian economics?
 3. What value do you see in onsite workplace re-education of people in godly principles that affect growth and productivity? If you are in a position to promote such education, how will you do so and which principles will you emphasize?

Worldview for the Marketplace

LESSON #2

**Building on
Divine Law**

LESSON AT A GLANCE

“Building on Divine Law”

Threefold Cord: Revelation

MASTER PRINCIPLE #2

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

Key scriptures:

1 Chr.12:32; Ps. 8:3-8; Prov. 8:22-31, 14: 6,12,16; Eccl. 3:11; Matt. 4:4, 5:45; John 2:6-10, 3:3, 16:7-15, 18:36; Rom. 1:18-20, 7:7-13, 10:4; 1 Cor. 2:6-16; Gal. 6:7; Col. 1:16-18; 1 Tim. 1:6-11; 2 Tim.3:16; Heb. 1:3; 4:1-13

Key concepts found in this lesson:

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.

How each of these four major teaching concepts generally applies to the marketplace ministries:

Key business applications:

Partnering with the Holy Spirit to apply 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,” and decisions require wholistic thinking that is God-given.

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

Romans 8:17

—STUDY, TRAIN, OBEY—

“Building on Divine Law”

I. MASTER PRINCIPLE #2:

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

- A. This lesson deals with the question of how God’s Word applies to all human activity.
 - 1. It deals with the universality of God’s objective Word (Matt. 4:4).
 - 2. It deals with how God’s Word applies to “saved” and “unsaved” mankind.
- B. It also deals with the relationship between 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 be seeing how obeying and disobeying God’s laws and principles cause us to “reap what we sow” (Gal. 6:7).

II. Both the spiritual and the natural universe are built upon God’s laws of divine order (Ps. 8:3-8; Prov. 8:22-31, 14:6,12,16; Matt. 5:45; John 2:6-10; Col.1:16-18; Heb. 1:3).

- A. While some secular “wisdom” is certain that Christianity is non-scientific superstition (Prov. 14:6,12,16), the facts are that Christ created the world and holds its molecules together (Ps. 8:3-8; Prov. 8:22-31; Col. 1:16-18; Heb. 1:3)!
 - 1. God is a systematic, intricate builder with amazing laws of engineering, physics, chemistry, and art filling 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 as well, and their mental DNA is modeled after God (Gen. 1:26-28), they 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 us 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 (Matt. 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 and supply, etc.,
 2. All of us likewise 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, and view of children and generational transfer.
 4. We expect revival through the workplace for two reasons:
 - a. It is the place of exchange.
 - b. Christians interact more and longer with the unsaved there than anywhere else.

Worldly Deceptions	<i>We are told falsely</i> that if spiritual laws exist, they cannot be proven scientifically, especially in a universe of relativity.
Key Business Applications	<i>The truth is,</i> 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 Cor. 2:6-16; Heb. 4:1-13).

- A. God's laws, as we have already discussed, are interwoven in spiritual and physical reality, but as Paul says (1 Cor. 2:6-16) and Jesus says (John 3:3), we must be spiritually re-born to see and understand them with the Holy Spirit's help (John 16:7).
1. "Laws" simply mean set principles, where compliance brings peace and blessing, and 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. It is also therefore 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 U.S. 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 (Heb. 4:1-13).

Worldly Deceptions	<i>We are told falsely</i> that the Bible is a cultural, anthropological, and religious book filled with bits of wisdom, cultural prejudices, and idiosyncrasies.
Key Business Applications	<i>The truth is,</i> 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 Testament, deals with God’s will for every aspect of man’s personal and social life (Eccl. 3:11; Matt. 4:4; Rom. 1:18-20, 7:7-13, 10:4; 1 Tim. 1:6-11; 2 Tim. 3:16).

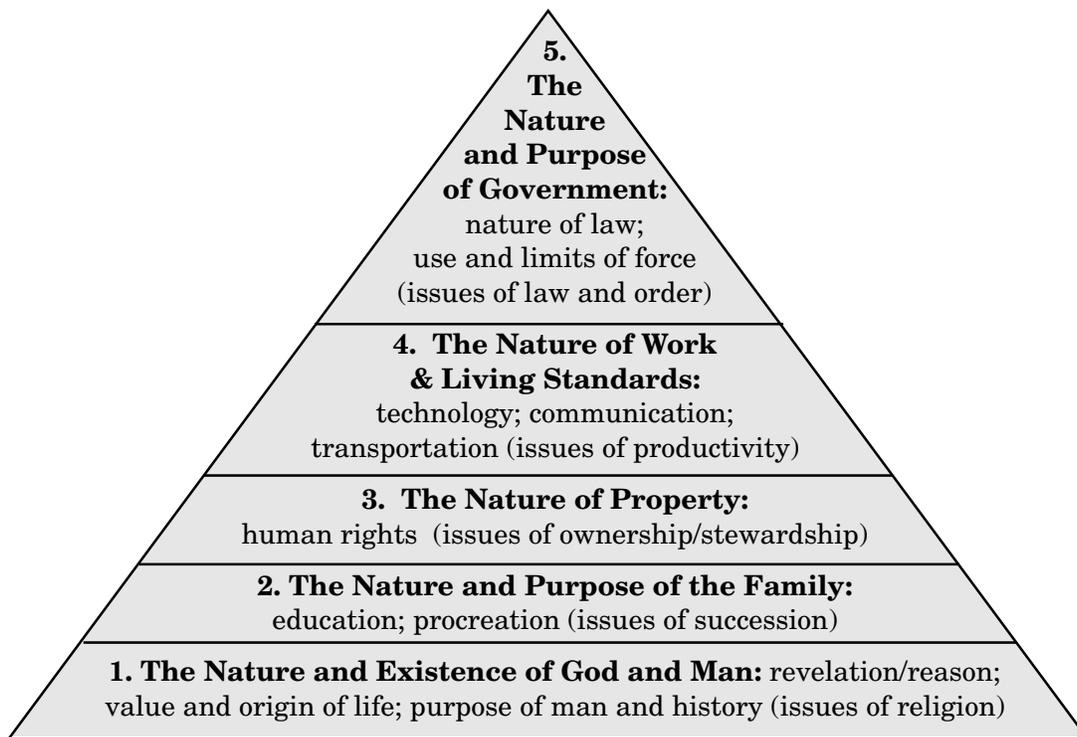
- A. God’s law applies in two major ways.
 1. It does not apply to Christians in terms of needing to obey it relative to our ultimate salvation (Rom. 10:4), but its principles still apply relative to strife or blessing. For example, breaking the law that forbids adultery may not cost your salvation, 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 (Rom. 7:7-13; Gal. 3:24; 1 Tim. 1:6-11).
- B. This raises the question of how 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 Tim. 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 (Matt. 4:4). All societies are blessed or cursed in relation to how they obey those laws consciously or unconsciously (Eccl. 3:11; Rom. 1:18-20).
- C. The Old and New Testament 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, and Marcionism was universally rejected by the Church Fathers.
 2. Huge amounts of business, economic, and social law are found in the Old Testament. Jesus didn’t need to say many things in the New Testament about these issues since He already said so much about them in the Old Testament!

Worldly Deceptions	<i>We are told falsely</i> that the Old Testament is no longer in force in any way.
Key Business Applications	<i>The truth is,</i> 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 making up mankind’s worldview (1 Chr. 12:32).

A. The following diagram is taken from Strategic Life Training and best illustrates these five building blocks:

THE FIVE BASIC BUILDING BLOCKS OF MAN’S REALITY



Examples of false presuppositional agendas:

Issue	False Presupposition
1. Origin of Life	No God—all information is gathered and forced through the filter of randomness and natural selection, or through another filter.
2. Sexual Freedom	No God—all moral decisions are based on hope of science “freeing” us from the natural consequences of disease and pregnancy.
3. 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.

B. 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.”

Worldly Deceptions	<i>We are told falsely</i> that religion is often an important part of culture but very destructive outside of its proper place.
Key Business Applications	<i>The truth is,</i> 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.



CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW QUESTIONS TO HELP CLARIFY AND BRING CHANGE

LESSON TWO

Our goal as believers is to become all Christ wants us to be. In order to do this, we go through the process of transformation. Biblical transformation involves these steps:

- A. Mental understanding of the truth we have seen or heard and active spiritual consent to bring that truth into our lives.
- B. Holding that truth against ourselves and letting it measure us—leading us into repentance and leading us out into a partnering relationship with the Holy Spirit to live out that change.

Asking the right questions facilitates this process. In that spirit, here are some helpful questions for Lesson #2:

- A. Questions for mental clarification:
 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," and what does that have to do with you?
- B. Questions for measuring yourself "against these truths":
 1. At this point in your life, with what major principles of God can you honestly say you have consciously determined to align your life?
 2. To what degree do you still struggle with antinomianism (a rejection of laws) in your own life?
 3. Give examples from your life, and the lives of others, where you have seen the laws of God operate to reveal rebellion or ignorance?
- C. Bringing change to the marketplace:
 1. 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?
 2. In your leadership and management at work, how systematic are the leadership principles you apply? Do others see the value of these principles, and how do you know?
 3. Consider some examples of how you might promote creativity in others without promoting independence that undercuts genuine teamwork?

Worldview for the Marketplace

LESSON #3

**Getting Free
from Pharaoh's
Propaganda
Machines**

LESSON AT A GLANCE

“Getting Free from Pharaoh’s Propaganda Machines”

Threefold Cord: Revelation

MASTER PRINCIPLE #3

Ideas and actions produce economic consequences

Key scriptures:

Gen. 12:1; Ex. 2:10; Deut. 17:6; Judg. 13:7; 1 Sam.16:11; Ps. 101:6-7; Eccl. 4:10-12; Matt. 3:1-4, 4:1-11; John 3:3,5, 14:26, 18:36; Acts 13:1-3, 15:25,28; Rom. 12:1-2; Gal. 1:17-2:1, 6:7; 1 Thess. 5:20; Heb. 11:23-24; James 1:5-8, 3:14-18, 4:1

Key concepts found in this lesson:

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.

How each of these four major teaching concepts generally applies to the marketplace ministries:

Key business applications:

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 and how we see it internally.
3. All human “wisdom” contains the 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.

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

Romans 8:17

—STUDY, TRAIN, OBEY—

“Getting Free from Pharaoh’s Propaganda Machines”

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” (Rom. 12:1-2).
 - 2. The challenge is always to get beyond “thinking new and 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 Thess. 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 (Gen. 12:1).
 - 2. Moses and his Egyptian education (Ex. 2:10; Heb. 11:23-24).
 - 3. David as an isolated shepherd (1 Sam. 16:11).
 - 4. Samson as a Nazirite (Judg. 13:7).
 - 5. John the Baptist in the wilderness (Matt. 3:1-4).
 - 6. Jesus in the wilderness (Matt.4:1-11).
 - 7. The Apostle Paul in the Arabian Desert (Gal. 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. Multi-culturalism: 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. Trans-sexualism: Heter-monogamy is only one of a multitude of valid sexual lifestyles.
7. Antinomianism: Laws are by their very nature 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	<i>We are told falsely</i> 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	<i>The truth is,</i> 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 (Ps. 101:6-7; John 3:3,5, 14:26, 18:36; Gal. 6:7; James 4:1).

- A. As we all know, ideas produce actions, and actions produce consequences. Also, they are all relative to God’s absolute standard of truth and reality.
 1. Even “good ideas” or “God ideas” need to be done in God’s will, sequence, and timing.
 2. The upside of this truth comes when we sow to, and plant, 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 is “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 (Gen. 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 (Ps. 101:6-7).
3. The first year of IBBE centers around 39 principles of personal and organizational transformation.

Worldly Deceptions	<i>We are told falsely</i> that while there may be many ways to see things philosophically or religiously, secular truth is based on “neutral” facts.
Key Business Applications	<i>The truth is</i> , what we produce in our work externally reflects what we see and how we see it internally. 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 (Deut. 17:6; Eccl. 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):
 - 1a. The Greek 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
 - 1b. The Hebrew way of thinking:
 2. Roman cultural imperialism (Roman icons, indigenous government); pragmatism
 3. Christian law base (Deuteronomy/Blackstone) and Catholic/Reformed heritage
 4. Socialism (civil centralism) v. “free market” conservatism (cause-effect “regulation”

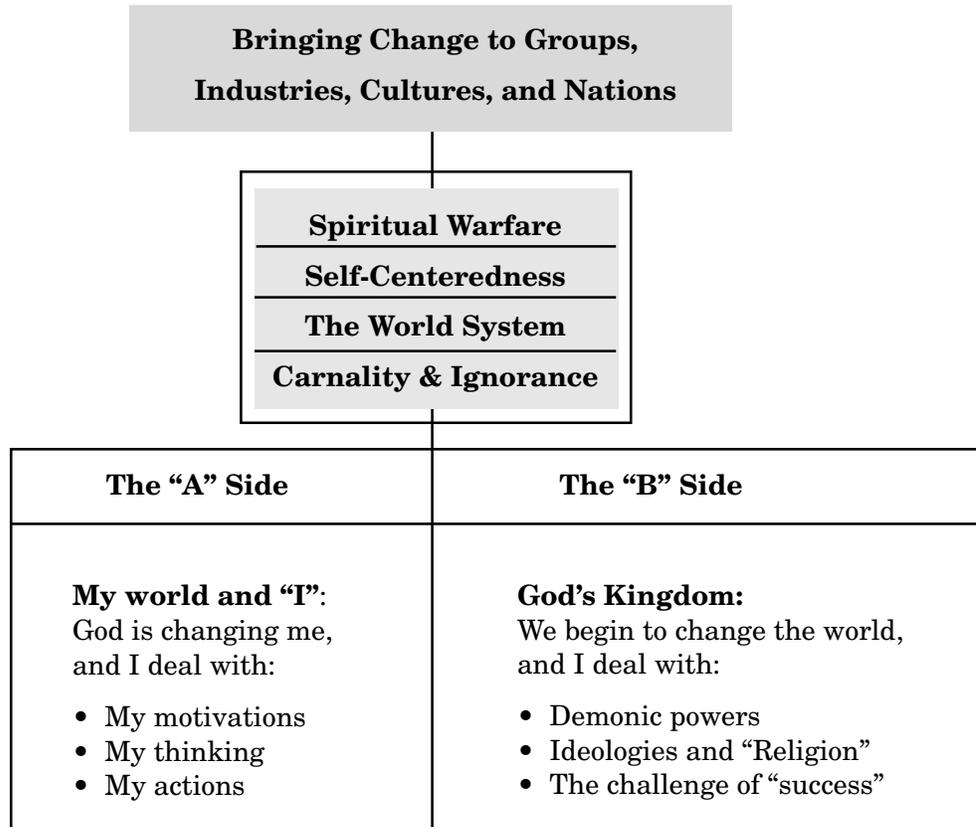
- C. Geo-politically the “Westernization”-“modernization” distinction is critical:
1. The whole world is moving towards “modernization” (technological, advanced economy).
 2. The non-Christian world is increasingly rejecting “westernization” (humanistic “freedom”).

Worldly Deceptions	<i>We are told falsely</i> that the success of democratic institutions is based upon the primary notions of religious tolerance and majority rule with minority rights.
Key Business Applications	<i>The truth is,</i> 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; Gal. 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” came first out of the early monastery models of division of labor.
 2. Capitalism is based upon investment theory, and investment theory is based upon the biblical concept of sowing and reaping v. superstition or fatalism (Gal. 6:7).
 3. “Deferred consumption” comes from the biblical concept of “seed corn,” and 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 so that we can become true Christian “statesmen.”
- “Statesmen” move from the “A” side of life to the “B” side of life and minister out from there.

The Vision for Christian Statesmen: Getting in the Game



Worldly Deceptions	<i>We are told falsely</i> that capitalism is the evolutionary result of improved agronomy, scientific discovery, and liberalism's vision of an increasingly prosperous world.
Key Business Applications	<i>The truth is,</i> all sound business and stewardship practices are grounded in God’s Word, even if the world wants credit for them.



CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW QUESTIONS TO HELP CLARIFY AND BRING CHANGE

LESSON THREE

Our goal as believers is to become all Christ wants us to be. In order to do this, we go through the process of transformation. Biblical transformation involves these steps:

- A. Mental understanding of the truth we have seen or heard and active spiritual consent to bring that truth into our lives.
- B. Holding that truth against ourselves and letting it measure us—leading us into repentance and leading us out into a partnering relationship with the Holy Spirit to live out that change.

Asking the right questions facilitates this process. In that spirit, here are some helpful questions for Lesson #3:

- A. Questions for mental clarification:
 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, and those who do not believe, in absolutes in terms of moral conduct or thinking?
 3. Explain what is meant by transformation working from the “inside-out”?
- B. Questions for measuring yourself “against these truths”:
 1. 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?
 2. Identify and write down three to four major assumptions about the nature of reality (presuppositions) upon which you operate your life. An example of a presupposition would be to say that there are no absolute truths.
 3. 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.
- C. Bringing change to the marketplace:
 1. Why is it essential to work through a business plan before attempting to bring change to a department, person, or the entire company?
 2. Identify two biblical principles (giving scripture references) that relate to business practices that the world system claims as its own.
 3. In sales and marketing, what is the difference between honest advertising and “propaganda”?

Worldview for the Marketplace

LESSON #4

**Living
and
Working
Strategically**

LESSON AT A GLANCE

“Living and Working Strategically”

Threefold Cord: Revelation

MASTER PRINCIPLE #4

Work is a holy and everlasting calling in God.

<p>Key scriptures:</p>	<p>Gen. 1:26, 2:1-2; Deut. 28:1-2; Psa. 90:12,17, 139:16; Isa. 48:17-19; Matt. 11:28-30, 28:18-20; Luke 14:26-35; John 5:17,24,30, 14:6,16,26,28, 16:7-16, 17:1-5,20-26; Acts 2:23, 17:26; Rom. 8:15-17; 1 Cor. 3:9-15, 9:25-27, 10:13; 2 Cor. 1:1-9; Gal. 4:1-7; Phil.2:1-11, 3:7, 4:9; 1 Tim. 4:16; Heb. 2:9-18, 4:15, 5:12-14, 12:11; 2 Pet.1:10-11; Rev. 13:8, 17:8</p>
<p>Key concepts found in this lesson: <i>Modeling what we are building after God and His ways of building.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
<p>How each of these four major teaching concepts generally applies to the marketplace ministries:</p>	
<p>Key business applications: <i>Seeing and applying the strategic development of a learning and character-based organization.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All organizations should develop a self-conscious “way” or climate that is biblical and that 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 nation. 3. All the elements of strategic planning and discipline must undergird our business and stewardship preparations and executions. 4. Building character and skills must be at the center of our business enterprise: Profit will be the “fruit.”

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

Romans 8:17

—STUDY, TRAIN, OBEY—

“Living and Working Strategically”

I. MASTER PRINCIPLE #4:

Work is a holy and everlasting calling in God.

- A. This lesson deals with following God as His 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 both 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 (Gen. 1:26, 2:1-2; Mat. 11:28-30; John 5:17,24,30, 14:6,16,26,28, 16:7-16, 17:1-5,20-26; Rom. 8:17; Phi. 2:1-11; Heb. 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” (Heb. 2:9-18, 4:15)!
 - 1. Leaders (Jesus) model for those who follow them the activities, character, and attributes they expect from those followers.
 - 2. We therefore, as do the historic Christian creeds, believe that the Trinity models for us the essentials of both human requirements and the keys to successful life achievement as well.
- B. God models for us in the Trinity the essentials of successful organizations and successful individual labor and reward. Among these modeled attributes within the Godhead are:
 - 1. A commitment to work (Gen. 2:1-2) and its eternal nature (John 5:17).
 - 2. A commitment to building in council (Gen. 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; Phil. 2:1-11).
 - 5. A commitment to train (Heb. 5:8), and a commitment to exalt (Psa. 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 (Rom. 8:17; Rev. 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: “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	<i>We are told falsely</i> 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	<i>The truth is,</i> 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, 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; Rom. 8:15-17; 1 Cor. 9:25-27, 10:13; 2 Cor. 1:1-9; Gal. 4:1-7; Phil. 3:7, 4:9; 1 Tim. 4: 16; Heb. 5:12-14, 12:11; 2 Pet. 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. 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 Cor. 9:25-27; Phil. 3:17, 4:9; 1 Tim. 4:16; Heb. 5:12-14, 12:11; 2 Pet. 1:10-11).
 - b. They prioritize their relationships; build strategically; expect warfare; release their resources to what they believe in (Luke 14:26-35).
 - c. They are following someone’s leadership (1 Cor. 11:1) and are committed to teach-train others what they have learned (Mat. 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, in God, right at “the edge,” by which God purifies and matures us in the process (1 Cor. 10:13; 2 Cor. 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	<i>We are told falsely</i> 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	<i>The truth is,</i> 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 (Psa. 90:12,17, 139:16; Acts 2:23, 17:26; Rev. 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 (desired results, back to 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 a team to do so.
- B. While discipline and planning must be balanced by flexibility, both are essential to strategic work.
 - 1. “Discipline,” at its root meaning, carries the idea of removing that which doesn't belong. Proverbs says that in God, skill (“wisdom” and discipline (“instruction” are the keys to a successful and fruitful life [hokhmah, musar].
 - 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: both internal and external message clarity.
 - 6. Prayer resources: the sustained ability to hear God’s heart and speak it into your work.

Worldly Deceptions	<i>We are told falsely</i> that “kingdom now” theology is not from God, that is, God is not interested in seeing His Kingdom established on the earth until He returns.
Key Business Applications	<i>The truth is,</i> 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 (Deut. 28:1-2; Isa. 48:17-19; 1 Cor. 3:9-15; Gal. 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 (Deut. 28:1-2; Isa. 48:17-19), prepare us for eternity (Gal. 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 do the following:

1. **Diagram One:**

1	2	3	4
Where are you now?	What change is needed?	How is it to be applied?	Has it taken?
A "picture"	A diagnosis	A plan	A new picture

2. These processes involve the interaction of:

- Management
- The staff/workers
- The systems

Worldly Deceptions	<i>We are told falsely</i> that in heaven we will forget our earth lives as sin will be remembered no more.
Key Business Applications	<i>The truth is,</i> 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. "



CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW QUESTIONS TO HELP CLARIFY AND BRING CHANGE

LESSON FOUR

Our goal as believers is to become all Christ wants us to be. In order to do this, we go through the process of transformation. Biblical transformation involves these steps:

- A. Mental understanding of the truth we have seen or heard and active spiritual consent to bring that truth into our lives.
- B. Holding that truth against ourselves and letting it measure us—leading us into repentance and leading us out into a partnering relationship with the Holy Spirit to live out that change.

Asking the right questions facilitates this process. In that spirit, here are some helpful questions for Lesson #4:

- A. Questions for mental clarification:
 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.
- B. Questions for measuring yourself “against these truths”:
 1. In what areas of your life is God working to “get you in shape” so you can play at a higher level?
 2. What does it mean to say that we are called to do eternal work now? Give examples of investments you are making in your life that will pass through death.
 3. Jesus says, “freely you have received, now freely give” (Matt. 10:8). With whom do you plan to share these truths?
- C. Bringing change to the marketplace:
 1. How does the structure of your organization reflect the way God builds through the Trinity?
 2. In your workplace, are people promoted based more on their proven character, or are they promoted more on the basis of politics and talent?
 3. Identify three things in your life and/or work that you will change to align with the biblical principles discussed in the first four lessons.

Worldview for the Marketplace

LESSON #5

**The Power
of
Obedient Faith**

LESSON AT A GLANCE

“The Power of Obedient Faith”

Threefold Cord: Revelation

MASTER PRINCIPLE #5

The possibility of failure is essential to human growth.

<p>Key scriptures:</p>	<p>Gen. 12:3; Deut. 6:5; Lev. 19:18; 2 Kings 4:all; Prov. 12:10; Matt. 5:13-16, 20:1-16, 22:37; John 7:17; Rom. 14:17; 1 Cor. 12:all, 13:all; Gal. 5:22-26; Heb. 11:all</p>
<p>Key concepts found in this lesson: <i>How to apply biblical faith in our decision-making and witness at work.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 our 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.
<p>How each of these four major teaching concepts generally applies to the marketplace ministries:</p>	
<p>Key business applications: <i>Practicing biblical decision-making in matters of faith, evangelism, and employment practices.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 upon what God is doing to clarify and develop our calling, skills, and character.

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

Romans 8:17

—STUDY, TRAIN, OBEY—

“The Power of Obedient Faith”

I. MASTER PRINCIPLE #5:

The possibility of failure is essential to human growth.

- A. This lesson deals with two colossally important issues:
 - 1. That our lives and business ministries must be built on faith, not human reason.
 - 2. That 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.

II. In God, obedience and trust, not “reason,” are the “currency of success” (Deut. 6:5; Lev. 19:18; Matt. 22:37; John 7:17; 1 Cor. 2:all).

- 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. Does this decision have as its primary goal obeying and honoring God and the developing 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 Cor. 2:all).
 - 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 (Deut. 6:5; Lev. 19:18; Matt. 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	<i>We are told falsely</i> that “success” is measured best by achieving the goals we have set for ourselves and helping others do the same.
Key Business Applications	<i>The truth is</i> , 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.

- III. From the human perspective, “faith” is a form of risk which builds our discernment and our trust in God (Gen. 12:3; Heb. 11:all).
- A. Faith must become a lifestyle, not an “isolated act” we engage 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 and corrections-->vigilance in the face of obstacles-->emerging achievement-->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 go through our day and its opportunities and challenges.
 - C. Biblically, the primary or foundational business relationships are those of the involved family (Gen. 12:3).
 - 1. Biblical trades or services tended to be generational, based on both discipling and apprenticeships, more than simple academic exposure to knowledge.
 - 2. Dismissing this phenomena 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 our Business School tell us that its biggest initial effect is on their families.

Worldly Deceptions	<i>We are told falsely</i> that “faith” is far more about believing in Christ and the Bible than in “doing things” in the real world, let alone in the marketplace.
Key Business Applications	<i>The truth is,</i> 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.

IV. If our ministry is in the marketplace, then our faith must be fully expressed there (2 Kings 4:all; Matt. 5:13-16, 20:1-16; Rom. 14:17; 1 Cor. 12:all, 13:all; Gal. 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?

- A. 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 (Gal. 5:22-26).
 - 4. The gifts of the Holy Spirit, as adapted to the workplace (1 Cor. 12:all, 13:all).
 - 5. Our concern for “unhired lives” (Matt. 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:all).
 - 7. Our commitment to, and constantly upgraded skills in “fishing for men” (Matt. 4:19) with what people give us to work with. This would include micro-fishing (personal) and macro-fishing (the extension socially of Kingdom economic theory and practice).

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

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

- A. As we have already seen in discussing “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 we or they 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 (Prov. 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.

Worldly Deceptions	<i>We are told falsely</i> that while some failures seem necessary to gain wisdom, we should not put too much value on failure.
Key Business Applications	<i>The truth is,</i> 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.



CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW QUESTIONS TO HELP CLARIFY AND BRING CHANGE

LESSON FIVE

Our goal as believers is to become all Christ wants us to be. In order to do this, we go through the process of transformation. Biblical transformation involves these steps:

- A. Mental understanding of the truth we have seen or heard and active spiritual consent to bring that truth into our lives.
- B. Holding that truth against ourselves and letting it measure us—leading us into repentance and leading us out into a partnering relationship with the Holy Spirit to live out that change.

Asking the right questions facilitates this process. In that spirit, here are some helpful questions for Lesson #5:

- A. Questions for mental clarification:
 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.
- B. Questions for measuring yourself “against these truths”:
 1. Give some examples as to how your biblical faith is reflected in your work at the office.
 2. Consider the degree to which your decision-making process is impacted by conventional wisdom rather than spiritual truth.
 3. Explain why the exercising of human compassion is, in fact, cruelty? Give examples.
- C. Bringing change to the marketplace:
 1. In what ways does God reward faith in the marketplace? Give two to three examples.
 2. How do you see a self-conscious discipling-apprenticing process impacting the productivity of employees where you work?
 3. In whom are you investing energy systematically and self-consciously where you work? Who is investing in you, and in what specific ways?

Worldview for the Marketplace

LESSON #6

**Mediating
Grace**

LESSON AT A GLANCE

“Mediating Grace”

Threefold Cord: Living and Building Relationally

MASTER PRINCIPLE #6

We grow in God by caring for people and things.

<p>Key scriptures:</p>	<p>Matt. 16:18, 35:31-46; Luke 16:10-12; John 14:6, 17:18-20, 20:22-23, 21:16; 1 Cor. 4:17, 11:1, 12:all; Eph. 3:14-18, 4:8-16; 1 Tim. 2:5; 1 John 4:19-20</p>
<p>Key concepts found in this lesson: <i>Mutual need not only matures us, it is the essence of true community.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All life is grounded in Christ, and 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.
<p>How each of these four major teaching concepts generally applies to the marketplace ministries:</p>	
<p>Key business applications: <i>The heart of any organization is the relational climate among team members.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

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

Romans 8:17

—STUDY, TRAIN, OBEY—

“Mediating Grace”

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 its 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 (Matt. 16:18, 25:31-46; John 17:18-20, 20:22-23; 1 Cor. 4:17, 11:1, 12:all; Eph. 4:8-16; 1 Tim. 2:5).

- A. All believers are aware that Christ is our only mediator between God and man; He is the author and finisher of our salvation.
 - 1. A “mediator” is a “bridge” between parties, carrying communication and needs between them, and 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. The Roman Catholics held that the church officials could mediate salvation since they held the “keys to the kingdom” in the church’s founding Apostle Peter (Matt. 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 either 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 (Matt. 25:31-46).
 - 2. Scripture makes it clear that people carry His gifts and power for mankind, representing or “mediating” on His behalf (1 Cor. 12:all; Eph. 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 Cor. 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 (Eph. 4:12-16).
4. The mediation of God's "masculine-feminine side" through marriage and brothers and sisters.

Worldly Deceptions	<i>We are told falsely</i> 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	<i>The truth is</i> , 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

(Lev. 26:8; 1 Cor. 12:23; Eph. 3:14-18, 4:15-16).

- A. As Rocky says in the movie, "I got gaps, you got gaps, we all got gaps," and so it is.
 1. God has created us all with strengths and weaknesses whereby we need God's gifts and love from Him, 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 engiftment, in such a way that two plus two produces six, not four (Lev. 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 Cor. 12:23).
 3. It exemplifies the team-building spirit powerfully.
 4. The full knowledge of God will only come through community (Eph. 3:14-18).

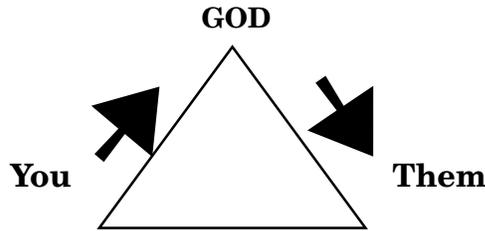
Worldly Deceptions	<i>We are told falsely</i> that human community is wonderful, but we all only really need Jesus Christ.
Key Business Applications	<i>The truth is</i> , every functioning member of a team contributes vitally to its success. Jesus could meet all our needs in isolation, but He has chosen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

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

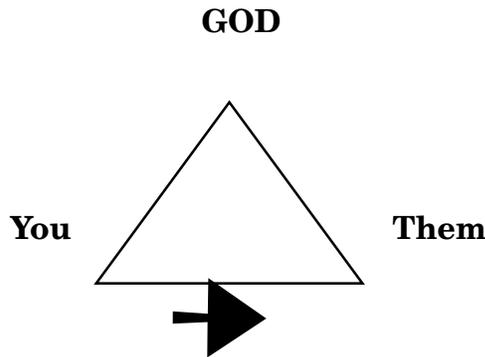
A. All relationships, in reality, involve you, them, and God.

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 tape titled, “The Rules of Engagement,” is available as a supplement to this worldview material.

Worldly Deceptions	<i>We are told falsely</i> that putting God in all relationships is a wonderful idea for Christians; Why don't they live like it?
Key Business Applications	<i>The truth is,</i> 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 already 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:all).
 - 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” (Year Two IBBE).
 - 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 of 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	<i>We are told falsely</i> that relationships are very important as a path toward self-fulfillment.
Key Business Applications	<i>The truth is,</i> 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.



CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW QUESTIONS TO HELP CLARIFY AND BRING CHANGE

LESSON SIX

Our goal as believers is to become all Christ wants us to be. In order to do this, we go through the process of transformation. Biblical transformation involves these steps:

- A. Mental understanding of the truth we have seen or heard and active spiritual consent to bring that truth into our lives.
- B. Holding that truth against ourselves and letting it measure us—leading us into repentance and leading us out into a partnering relationship with the Holy Spirit to live out that change.

Asking the right questions facilitates this process. In that spirit, here are some helpful questions for Lesson #6:

- A. Questions for mental clarification:
 1. What do you mean when you say that Christ alone “mediates salvation,” but God “mediates” other things through people?
 2. Why is mutual need the “glue” of community and family?
 3. Explain the “triangle of life” in your own words.
- B. Questions for measuring yourself “against these truths”:
 1. How conscious are you of God mediating His grace to your family through you?
 2. How aware are you of the degree to which God uses others to speak to you? How might you express your appreciation to these people?
 3. Are you willing to pay the price to be used by God to mediate His grace to others? What investments might you make to better position yourself to be used by God in this way?
- C. Bringing change to the marketplace:
 1. Consider and list three to four examples of growth in your life that are a result of “caring for people and things.”
 2. How do you see the principle of mutual need operating in your workplace creating an atmosphere of mutual gratitude and support among staff? How can you promote such an environment?
 3. In what ways is conflict resolution in your workplace a reflection of the principles articulated in Matthew 18:15-17? If they are not, consider how these principles might impact the way you resolve conflict in your company.

Worldview for the Marketplace

LESSON #7

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

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

Threefold Cord: Living and Building Relationally

MASTER PRINCIPLE #7

Functioning biblical government is essential for lasting productivity.

Key scriptures:	Gen. 1:2,26, 12:1-3, 18:17-19; Exod. 20:15-16; Lev. 19:35-37; Deut. 5:16, 12:8, 16:18-20, 17:14-20, 19:14, 24:19; 1 Sam.13:1-14; Prov. 16:32, 25:28; Isa. 1:23, 9:7; Ezek. 45:9-12; Matt. 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; Rom. 6:1-8, 8:17, 13:1-7; 1 Cor. 5:9-13, 11:1-3, 12:4-6, 15:28; 2 Cor. 10:13-16; Gal. 1:6-10; Eph. 1:18-23, 2:10, 4:all, 5:22-24; Phil. 2:1-11; Col. 1:18-22; 1 Tim. 3:all, 5: 8,17; Titus 1:5, 3:9-11; Heb. 1:3; 1 Pet. 2:13-14, 5:1
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Key concepts found in this lesson: <i>God models His Kingdom government structures for all mankind in every cultural and historical context.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Within the Trinity, which is our pattern for building, God models a functioning team of co-equals who execute their goals through a 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 inter-related 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.
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How each of these four major teaching concepts generally applies to the marketplace ministries:

Key business applications: <i>A sound organizational structure balances executive authority with group ownership, and promotes this model in all spheres for its members.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A healthy authority/management model balances executive authority with group participation and a division of labor. 2. Organizational health and profit, in the long run, 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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You are called to co-manage God’s creation in Christ.

Romans 8:17

—STUDY, TRAIN, OBEY—

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

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 already 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, which is our pattern for building, God models a functioning team of co-equals who execute their goals through a division of labor (Gen. 1:2; Isa. 9:7; Matt. 6:10, 24:14; Luke 22:24-27; John 1:14, 5:19-20,30, 14:26,28, 16:7,13; 1 Cor. 11:1-3, 12:4-6, 15:28; 2 Cor. 10:13-15; Phil. 2:1-11; Col. 1:18-22; Heb. 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 (Isa. 9:7).
- B. Without structure, rules, authority, and agreement (i.e., government), God’s Kingdom on earth cannot be realized, even initially (Matt. 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, and out from it God extends His created beings’ entry into His government, covenants, and life-destiny.
 - a. Because God uses the principles of government (unified purpose, division of labor, service to another, 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 both what we must submit to and what we must extend (Matt. 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 Cor. 11:1-3) even though He is fully God Himself (Phil. 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 Cor. 15:28); the Father lives to exalt the Son (Col. 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 (Heb. 1:3); and the Holy Spirit energizes the plans (Gen. 1:2; 1 Cor. 12:4-6).
 - f. Proper order always recognizes the appropriateness of spheres of labor (2 Cor. 10:13-15).

Worldly Deceptions	<i>We are told falsely</i> 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	<i>The truth is,</i> 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 (Gen. 1:26; Isa. 9:7; John 17:all; Rom. 8:17; 1 Cor. 15:28; Eph. 1:18-23).

- A. Good government precedes and produces peace (order) (Isa. 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 (Rom. 8:17; 1 Cor. 15:28; Eph. 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 (Gen. 1:26) and under the leadership of the executive function as well (John 17:all).

2. Either too much focus on the vertical dimension of government (authoritarianism), or too much emphasis on the horizontal dimension of government (egalitarianism) throws the “wheel” totally out of balance.

Worldly Deceptions	<i>We are told falsely</i> that authoritarianism is the hallmark of Christianity and has no place in modern workplace authority or management structures.
Key Business Applications	<i>The truth is,</i> 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 inter-related for God’s Kingdom to manifest properly (Gen. 12:1-3, 18:17-19; Exo. 20:15-16; Lev. 19:35-37; Deut. 5:16, 12:8, 16:18-20, 17:14-20, 19:14, 24:19; Prov. 16:32, 25:28; 1 Sam. 13:1-14; Isa. 1:23; Ezek. 45:9-12; Matt. 6:10, 8:21-22, 15:4-7; Acts 14:23, 20:17; Rom. 6:1-8, 13:1-7; 1 Cor. 5:9-13; 2 Cor. 10:13-16; Gal. 1:6-10; Eph. 2:10, 4:all, 5:22-24; 1 Tim. 3:all, 5:8,17; Titus 1:5, 3:9-11; 1 Pet. 2:13-14, 5:1).

- A. There are three major structures of government as revealed in scripture.
 1. Family government (Gen. 12:1-3, 18:17-19; Deut. 5:16; 1 Tim. 5:8).
 2. Church government (1 Cor. 5:9-13; Gal. 1:6-10; Eph. 4:all; Titus 3:9-11).
 3. Civil government (Deut. 16:18-20; Isa. 1:23; Ezek. 45:9-12; Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Pet. 2:13-14).
- B. Two additional spheres of government, which must be understood, are revealed in the Bible, in order to effectively disciple a nation.
 1. Self-government (Prov. 16:32; 25:28; Rom. 6:1-8; 1 Tim. 3:5).
 2. Commercial government (Deut. 24:19; Eph. 2:10; Titus 1:5).
- C. Let us quickly look at these five 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 (Eph. 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 extra-locally through Christ's ascension gifts of church equipping (Eph. 4:12—Apostles, Prophets, Teachers, Evangelists) and locally through Elders (Acts 14:23, 20:17; 1 Tim. 3:all, 5:17; Titus 1:5; 1 Pet. 5:1) and Pastors.
 - b. All five of these gifts interface locally and extra-locally to help bring the people of God to maturity.
 4. Civil government:
 - a. Civil government is biblically detailed in the Old Testament (Deut. 16:18-20, 17:14-20; Isa. 1:23), and re-confirmed in the New Testament (Rom. 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 (Exod. 20:15-16; Lev. 19:35-37; Deut. 19:14; 24:19).
 - b. As we have already 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 Cor. 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 (Deut. 12:8).
 - b. Tyranny through misplaced family government (Matt. 8:21-22).
 - c. Tyranny through misplaced church government (Matt. 15:4-7).
 - d. Tyranny through misplaced commercial government (Fascism).
 - e. Tyranny through misplaced civil government (1 Sam. 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 (Matt. 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	<i>We are told falsely</i> that religious views of a comprehensive, unified social government are the enemy of free democratic societies.
Key Business Applications	<i>The truth is,</i> 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 (Matt. 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 (Matt. 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 (Matt. 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 (the workplace) some dimension of church is operating there because those elected by God to rule are there!

Worldly Deceptions	<i>We are told falsely</i> that the “church” is where believers congregate, worship, care for one another, and execute the “business of the church.”
Key Business Applications	<i>The truth is,</i> believers are to give themselves to the “assembling together of the saints,” and their ministry in the marketplace as their calling requires. 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.



CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW QUESTIONS TO HELP CLARIFY AND BRING CHANGE

LESSON SEVEN

Our goal as believers is to become all Christ wants us to be. In order to do this, we go through the process of transformation. Biblical transformation involves these steps:

- A. Mental understanding of the truth we have seen or heard and active spiritual consent to bring that truth into our lives.
- B. Holding that truth against ourselves and letting it measure us—leading us into repentance and leading us out into a partnering relationship with the Holy Spirit to live out that change.

Asking the right questions facilitates this process. In that spirit, here are some helpful questions for Lesson #7:

- A. Questions for mental clarification:
 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 universal Church.
- B. Questions for measuring yourself “against these truths”?
 1. How does government work in your own family? What is the division of labor in the home and with the children?
 2. Explain what it means to say the Trinity is our “model in all things” as followers of Christ.
 3. What are the three major sources of governmental energy?
- C. Bringing change to the marketplace:
 1. How is productivity and profit directly linked to the quality of government in the organization?
 2. In what ways should the principles of co-equality and division of labor impact the determination of employees’ salaries or wages?
 3. 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, as well as the work environment.

Worldview for the Marketplace

LESSON #8

**How Big
Is Your Vision?**

LESSON AT A GLANCE

“How Big Is Your Vision?”

Threefold Cord: Living and Building Relationally

MASTER PRINCIPLE #8

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

<p>Key scriptures:</p>	<p>Gen. 1:11, 12:3; Deut. 6:20-25; 2 Sam. 18:18; Ps. 78:1-7; Jer. 6:16; Hab. 2:2; Mal. 4:4-6; Matt. 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 Cor. 4:17, 11:1, 12:18; Eph. 4:15-16; Phil. 3:12</p>
<p>Key concepts found in this lesson: <i>How to build multi-generational organizations which are faithful to the intent of their design and fathers.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
<p>How each of these four major teaching concepts generally applies to the marketplace ministries:</p>	
<p>Key business applications: <i>The heritage and vision of an organization creates a climate of excellence, honor, and stability through a spirit of fatherhood.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A God-birthered 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-birthered 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.

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

Romans 8:17

—STUDY, TRAIN, OBEY—

“How Big Is Your Vision?”

I. MASTER PRINCIPLE #8:

All lasting wealth comes through the family unit and is built generationally (Gen. 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, is built 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 “money 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 (Deut. 6:20-25; 2 Sam. 18:18; Ps. 78:1-7; Jer. 6:16; Hab. 2:2; Mal. 4:4-6; Matt. 11:28-30; John 16:7, 17:18-19)?

- A. Adam Peacocke uses a wonderful example from the Olympic Games.
 - 1. In the Olympic Games, Donovan Bayly set a record for the 100 meters of 9.84.
 - 2. In the same Olympics, three of the four winning 400 x 100 meter relay men ran faster.
 - 3. The issue was empowering others with 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 (Jer. 6:16; Matt. 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 (example: David-Solomon; Jesus-Twelve-Paul-us).

- d. Envision the generations with your vision; share your heart (Mal. 4:4-6).
- C. What does it take to shape a heart?
 - 1. There must be a clear vision (Hab.2:2) which excites commitment beyond one lifetime.
 - 2. The vision must be shaped and shared by at least two generations (Deut. 6:20-25).
 - 3. There must be 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 (Ps. 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 Sam. 18:18)!

Worldly Deceptions	<i>We are told falsely</i> that because of the competitive nature of the marketplace, individual performance is the key to realizing our personal dreams.
Key Business Applications	<i>The truth is,</i> 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 (Matt. 28:18-20; Luke 9:1-10; John 5:17,19,20,24,30; 1 Cor. 4:17; 11:1; Phil. 3:12).

- A. The concept of “generational transfer,” in the context of any organization, requires that it become a “learning organization.” Year Two of IBBE focuses on this concept.
 - 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 Cor. 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 (Matt. 28:18-20).

Worldly Deceptions	<i>We are told falsely</i> that every new leadership team must be free to build with a new vision.
Key Business Applications	<i>The truth is,</i> 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” (Gen. 1:11; Phil. 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, and 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. Parents' children aren't identical to the parents, but they are totally a related product of 100% of their DNA.
 2. "Tissue rejection" and "blood type compatibility" should tell us something about how God builds.

Worldly Deceptions	<i>We are told falsely</i> that all successful companies in a fast-paced technological market must be able to "morph" quickly.
Key Business Applications	<i>The truth is,</i> 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 (Gen. 12:3; Mal. 4:4-6; Matt. 12:48-50; 1 Cor. 12:18; Eph. 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" (Eph. 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: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph.
 2. To be a spiritual family in Christ (Matt. 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 U.S. companies are family firms.
 2. 40-60% of the U.S. Gross National Product is generated by family firms.
 3. 500,000 private U.S. 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 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, 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 U.S. 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	<i>We are told falsely</i> that capitalism's success is based upon the strength of the corporation model.
Key Business Applications	<i>The truth is,</i> 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 they each must find



CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW QUESTIONS TO HELP CLARIFY AND BRING CHANGE

LESSON EIGHT

Our goal as believers is to become all Christ wants us to be. In order to do this, we go through the process of transformation. Biblical transformation involves these steps:

- A. Mental understanding of the truth we have seen or heard and active spiritual consent to bring that truth into our lives.
- B. Holding that truth against ourselves and letting it measure us—leading us into repentance and leading us out into a partnering relationship with the Holy Spirit to live out that change.

Asking the right questions facilitates this process. In that spirit, here are some helpful questions for Lesson #8:

- A. Questions for mental clarification:
 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?
- B. Questions for measuring yourself "against these truths":
 1. To what degree does the way you relate to your spouse and children facilitate generational transfer?
 2. What clear examples of generational transfer can you identify in your family history?
 3. Make a list of both the "riches" and the "wealth" you are accumulating for your children. Are you satisfied with this list?
- C. Bringing change to the marketplace:
 1. In what ways is your company practicing "generational transfer?" What can be done to strengthen this practice and make it more strategic?
 2. What business-stewardship skills that you apply at work can be applied to the training of your family?
 3. Examine the "DNA" of your organization and consider whether you are operating in alignment with it.

Worldview for the Marketplace

LESSON #9

**God Loans,
Transfers,
and
Takes Away**

LESSON AT A GLANCE

“God Loans, Transfers, and Takes Away”

Threefold Cord: Stewardship Skills

MASTER PRINCIPLE #9

God is the author and creator of all “private property.”

Key scriptures:	Gen. 1:26-28, 2:5,15,19, 3:8-9; Lev. 18:24-25,27,28, 20:22, 26:34-43; Num. 18:20-32; Deut. 9:4-5, 16:12-15; 2 Sam. 6:1-7; 2 Chr. 36:21; Job 38:4-24, 42:11; Ps. 2:8, 9:5, 24:1; Prov. 19:23, 24:1; Jer. 2:7, 3:2, 12:4, 16:18; Hos. 4:1-3; Matt. 13:12; Luke 16:10-12; John 14:15, 21:15-17; Acts 17:26; 1 Cor. 4:7; Col. 1:15-18; 2 Tim. 2:24
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Key concepts found in this lesson: <i>Properly caring for God’s people and things is at the center of God’s heart for His children..</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Private property is a concept established and modeled by God. Since God created and owns all things, “private property” is actually a stewardship trust by man of God’s things. We grow by caring for people and things; the stewardship of “private property” is essential to cultural maturity. What God gives us no man can take away; what we take for ourselves we cannot keep.
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How each of these four major teaching concepts generally applies to the marketplace ministries:

Key business applications: <i>The ethics of the private sector substantially determine both the maturity and longevity of the surrounding culture.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Personal investment and a sense of personal responsibility are the spiritual origin of what we call “profit” (economic theory; profit-sharing; socialism proprietors). The management of “private property” is ultimately a trust not a right (eminent domain theory; fiduciary theory; corporate law). Stewardship skills are the engine of economic growth (capitalism; business training; promotion theory). 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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You are called to co-manage God’s creation in Christ.

Romans 8:17

—STUDY, TRAIN, OBEY—

“God Loans, Transfers, and Takes Away”

I. MASTER PRINCIPLE #9:

God is the author and creator of all “private property” (Gen. 1:26-28, 2:5,15,19, 3:8-9; Num. 18:20-32; Deut. 16:12-15; Job 38:4-24, 42:11; Ps. 2:8, 24:1; Col. 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 (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:5,15,19, 3:8-9).
- 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; Ps. 2:8, 24:1; Col. 1: 15-18).

- A. God owns all things, as the above scriptures clearly state.
1. Rebellious mankind rejects the concept of a “Creator” because it carries with it the reality of both 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 (Col. 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. Christianity alone, of all the world’s major religions, has a theology of economics and a theology of private property.
- C. Property issues inevitably lead into the discussion of “social justice” and the property rights of individuals, and the role of civil government to re-distribute 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 (Num. 18:20-32; Deut. 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	<i>We are told falsely</i> that all private property is ultimately theft from common humanity by the culturally dominant.
Key Business Applications	<i>The truth is,</i> 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 (Prov. 19:23; Matt. 13:12, 25:14-30; 1 Cor. 4:7; 2 Tim. 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 (Matt. 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 (Prov. 19:23).
- C. God wants to disciple us (mastery) into all things, 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. The supreme questions for those desiring to grow in stewardship skills are these:
 - a. How much can you manage without corrupting your values or ethics?
 - b. How much can you manage without de-humanizing yourself and other people, relating to them as objects or means to an end?
 - c. How much can you manage without living in destructive anxiety (2 Tim. 2:24)?

Worldly Deceptions	<i>We are told falsely</i> that man is free to do whatever he wills with what he freely owns.
Key Business Deceptions	<i>The truth is,</i> 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 Sam. 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 Sam. 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 growing stewardship skills. As a result, Matt. 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 socially “moral compass” of the 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.

Worldly Deceptions	<i>We are told falsely</i> that ideally, as John Lennon says in the song “Imagine.” there should be no nations, and that man should share all things.
Key Business Applications	<i>The truth is</i> , 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 (Lev. 18:24-25, 27,28; 20:22, 26:34,43; Deut. 9:4-5; 2 Chr. 36:21; Ps. 9:5; Jer. 2:7, 3:2, 12:4, 16:18; Hos. 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 (Deut. 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 (Lev. 18:24-25,27,28, 20:22, 26:34,43; Deut. 9:4-5; 2 Chr. 36:21; Ps. 9:5; Jer. 2:7, 3:2, 12:4, 16:18; Hos. 4:1-3; Acts 17:26).
3. As you can see from Lev. 26:34,43 and 2 Chr. 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 God determines who stewards His lands and their borders (Acts 17:26).

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



CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW QUESTIONS TO HELP CLARIFY AND BRING CHANGE

LESSON NINE

Our goal as believers is to become all Christ wants us to be. In order to do this, we go through the process of transformation. Biblical transformation involves these steps:

- A. Mental understanding of the truth we have seen or heard and active spiritual consent to bring that truth into our lives.
- B. Holding that truth against ourselves and letting it measure us—leading us into repentance and leading us out into a partnering relationship with the Holy Spirit to live out that change.

Asking the right questions facilitates this process. In that spirit, here are some helpful questions for Lesson #9:

- A. Questions for mental clarification:
 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?
- B. Questions for measuring yourself “against these truths”:
 1. To what degree is the principle of stewardship practiced in your life and encouraged in your family?
 2. Revise the three supreme questions articulated in the lesson that all those who desire to grow in stewardship skills must ask. Examine where you are in the family and business in relation to these three questions. Consider and commit to do one thing in each of these areas that will encourage growth in your life toward godly stewardship.
 3. Give examples of things God has given you that you are sure you haven’t taken for yourself or “earned?”
- C. Bringing change to the marketplace:
 1. Identify and give examples as to how “social justice” is being practiced where you work? What is the fruit?
 2. Consider ways that “the powerful” might enable the “less powerful” in the marketplace
 3. Describe as best you can some of the impacts on a nation where the people are committed to “political correctness” and the pursuit of “equality of all cultures” at the expense of biblical truth? What might believers do to mitigate this problem?

Worldview for the Marketplace

LESSON #10

**Where Is
the Value?**

LESSON AT A GLANCE

“Where Is the Value?”

Threefold Cord: Stewardship Skills

MASTER PRINCIPLE #10

Service is the foundation of every successful ministry.

Key scriptures:	Deut. 6:6-9; Matt. 6:24-34, 7:12, 13:22, 22:37-40; John 14:6; Acts 17:26; 1 Cor. 13:all; Phil. 3:12
Key concepts found <i>What God values for people is what Christians in the marketplace should excel in providing for them.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 and 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?”
How each of these four major teaching concepts generally applies to the marketplace ministries:	
Key business applications: <i>Christian business ethics are grounded in service and value that are aligned with God's ethics and flow both internally and externally.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 what ethically serves the customers.

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

Romans 8:17

—STUDY, TRAIN, OBEY—

“Where Is the Value?”

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 Cor. 13:all).
- 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 preoccupied with bringing true value to all they touch.

II. Whoever truly serves leads (Matt. 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. So called “servant leadership,” to be biblical, should achieve the following:
 - 1. Not be selfishly motivated by the Machiavellian notion of “stooping to lead,” i.e., be serving so as to capture those we serve.
 - 2. Not promote a disrespect for authority or the executive function of decision-making by promoting pure democracy. The Kingdom of God is not a democracy.
 - 3. Maximizing self-government; ownership, and group input; modeled godliness; accountability with consequences and rewards; 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 something or achieve something. They are leaders if they demonstrate a new way to create more value, for more people, in a more efficient manner.

Worldly Deceptions	<i>We are told falsely</i> that service can be an important means to achieving one's goals. Beyond that, in terms of "value," value and beauty are in the eye of the beholder. If people want it, sell it.
Key Business Applications	<i>The truth is,</i> 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 mammon

(Matt. 6:24-34, 13:22).

- A. "Mammon" is commonly understood by those who have studied this issue to actually 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" (Matt. 6:25,27,28,31,34) over our material possessions and drives us with a spirit of "never enough." Earl Pitts has some excellent material on this subject.
 - 3. This "anxiousness" is also a prime cause for a weak or failing walk in Christ (Matt. 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 exporting of sin around the world, it is a good time to connect with honest people and honest products and services before the flood water rises.
- C. Believers should be thinking about three things, beyond what has been mentioned, in terms of creating a more biblical social economic system.
 - 1. The creation of "Christian economics" with high turn-over of internal goods and services and barter.
 - 2. "Gleaning" possibilities for the needy.
 - 3. Discipling and apprenticing for qualified people as a part of their academic training.

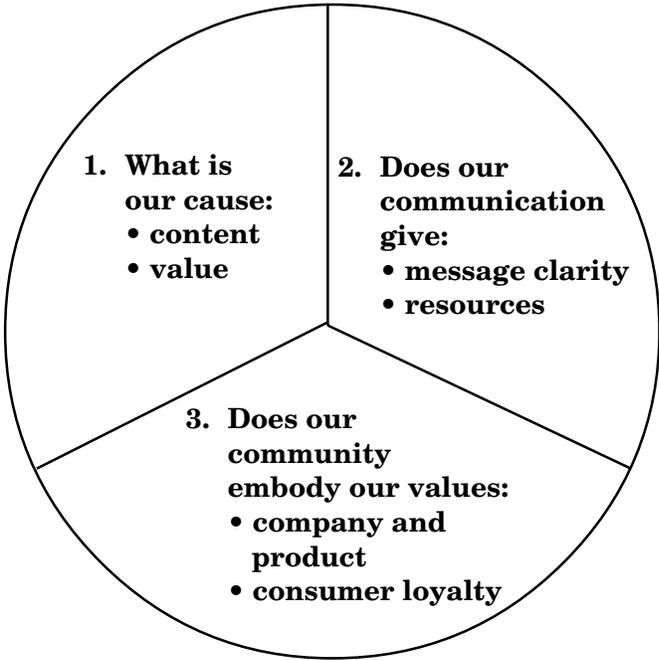
Worldly Deceptions	<i>We are told falsely</i> that business should be about giving people what they want and stimulating their need for it.
Key Business Applications	<i>The truth is,</i> the true service and value of any enterprise is the degree to which its products and services embody God's purposes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

- I. Success is related to our service to God, and if we truly serve Him, He releases fruitfulness to our assigned tasks and destiny (Acts 17:26; Phil. 3:12).
 - A. As Acts 17:26 tells us, God has created a design and a destiny not only for individuals, but 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 Phillipians 3:12.
 - 2. To be good at what I am not called to do, and focused there, is a form of failure.

Worldly Deceptions	<i>We are told falsely</i> that success is measured by achieved personal goals and the attaining of the means to do as we desire.
Key Business Applications	<i>The truth is,</i> “success” is blessing with our actions what God wants our customers to receive from us (compensation and pricing levels, etc.) Real success must be measured against God’s design and destiny for an individual, a 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?”** (Deut. 6:6-9).
 - A. Value, as we have already seen, is based on God’s values and purposes, not man’s.
 - 1. God’s values must become our ethics for both ourselves and what we promote that others see the value in as well.
 - 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 therefore continually stand in these questions and evaluate the actions the answers appropriately require:
 - 1. Are we educating those in the organization on the values of what we seek to be and sell to others? How do we prove this or test it?
 - 2. Are we “catechizing” our people in these values so that those values become a part of who they are (Deut. 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	<i>We are told falsely</i> that the bottom line is the bottom line.
Key Business Applications	<i>The truth is,</i> 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.



CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW QUESTIONS TO HELP CLARIFY AND BRING CHANGE

LESSON TEN

Our goal as believers is to become all Christ wants us to be. In order to do this, we go through the process of transformation. Biblical transformation involves these steps:

- A. Mental understanding of the truth we have seen or heard and active spiritual consent to bring that truth into our lives.
- B. Holding that truth against ourselves and letting it measure us—leading us into repentance and into a partnering relationship with the Holy Spirit where we will live out that change.

Asking the right questions facilitates this process. In that spirit, here are some helpful questions for Lesson #10:

- A. Questions for mental clarification:
 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?”
- B. Questions for measuring yourself “against these truths”:
 1. How are you biblically serving your family, church, work, and nation?
 2. How much of a hold does economic lifestyle (mammon) have on you; your spouse; your children; your friends? What can you do about it?
 3. Spend time with God asking Him the question, “What was in Your mind when You created me?”
- C. Bringing change to the marketplace:
 1. How effective have you, and the company in which you work, been at honoring and promoting God’s values and services for people? In the areas where your company does not promote God’s values what can be done?
 2. Study the scriptures and make a list of the operating principles of godly leadership that you find. For example, following the Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12). Consider and write down how these principles should impact the daily operation of your business.
 3. Consider the potential impact on your company of beginning to operate with a motivation toward true service.

Worldview for the Marketplace

LESSON #11

**The Economics
of Obedience
and Boundaries**

LESSON AT A GLANCE

“The Economics of Obedience and Boundaries”

Threefold Cord: Stewardship Skills

MASTER PRINCIPLE #11

God pays for what He orders.

<p>Key scriptures:</p>	<p>Gen. 3:5, 6:19, 11:1-9; 1 Sam. 17:4-51; Psa. 19:13, 131:all; Prov. 1:1-7; Isa. 14:13; 1 Cor. 12:27; 2 Cor. 10:14-17; Eph. 4:12-16; Heb. 11:1; James 1:2-8; 2 Pet. 1:3, 2:10; Jude v.9; Rev. 22:2</p>
<p>Key concepts found in this lesson: <i>While God expects us to bring increase, we cannot do so in our own will or presumption.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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, extending to you and those to whom you are assigned (jointed).
<p>How each of these four major teaching concepts generally applies to the marketplace ministries:</p>	
<p>Key business applications: <i>God honors growth that is done His way, in His timing, and facilitated by His will.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sound business practices demand that we stay within our resource base relationally, financially, technically, and executionally. 2. “Faith,” relative to growth and risk, as already stated, 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 require, almost always, consensus from the key leaders that is real, not “performance-based.”

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

Romans 8:17

—STUDY, TRAIN, OBEY—

“The Economics of Obedience and Boundaries”

I. MASTER PRINCIPLE #11:

God pays for what He orders (Psa. 19:13; 2 Pet. 1:13).

In this study we will deal with the critical issues of true growth, rather than presumption, and how to apply faith both personally and with those around us.

- A. All living healthy organizations experience growth.
 - 1. Lasting growth comes out of discovering and building with God's provision.
 - 2. Growth which is destined to disappear and damage us, and others, is the result of missing God's provision and creating our own provisions presumptuously.
- B. In our fallenness, man wants the power “to ascend” beyond limits and be a god (Gen. 3:5; Isa. 14:15).
 - 1. The Tower of Babel (Gen. 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” (Rev. 22:2) is the source of God's provision, in Christ, for mankind, and that "tree" is rooted in our fear of acting independently of God, outside of His boundaries and provisions (Psa. 19:13).

II. While God is infinite, He has set limits and boundaries for man to discover and respect (Psa. 131:all; 2 Cor. 10:14-17; 2 Pet. 2:10; Jude v.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 create our own provision through strife, debt, untested relationships or manipulation, we will live to regret it.
 - 3. Fiat money, personal, corporate and national debt, are all examples of man “playing God,” unless they are expeditiously retired.
- B. Over-extending our relational investments or personal ministries and gifts, as the Apostle Paul notes, is another form of resisting God's limits and boundaries of safety for us (2 Cor. 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 us to do!
- C. God's boundaries of safety are also set for our protection from both illegal speech (2 Pet. 2:10) and meddling in issues which do not apply to us (Psa. 131:all).
 - 1. God has set boundaries of speech, even against evil authorities (Jude v.9).
 - 2. Getting involved in problems and issues that don't belong to us (fall within our sphere) is a recipe for frustration, mis-spent time, and anxiety.

Worldly Deceptions	<i>We are told falsely</i> that whatever man can imagine, properly equipped, he can do.
Key Business Applications	<i>The truth is,</i> 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) (Prov. 1:1-7; Heb. 11:1).

- A. “Faith” is not following our own will, using God’s name, of course. Faith is seeing God’s will for something and partnering behind Him to make it happen (Heb. 11:1).
 - 1. The risk in faith is in putting God’s name on our own will.
 - 2. Obedience, as we have noted before, 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 (Prov. 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	<i>We are told falsely</i> that spiritual “faith” is subjective hope; real faith is courage and tenacity applied to a task.
Key Business Applications	<i>The truth is,</i> 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	<i>We are told falsely</i> 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	<i>The truth is,</i> 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, and extending to those to whom you are assigned (jointed) (Gen. 6:19; 1 Sam. 17:4-51; 1 Cor. 12:27; Eph. 4:12-16).

- A. The concept of God’s borders or limits also applies to the issue of with whom God wants us to build and with whom He does not want us to build, for whatever reasons.
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. It is common vision and common purposes that God uses to bond people together in a common response to His “sound” (Gen. 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 Cor. 12:27).
 2. Community requires “citizenship,” that is, the common ascent to transcendent values which members agree to abide by and mutually reinforce.
- A. Seeing things God’s way allows us to go beyond the limits which have stopped others as David models so clearly (1 Sam. 17:4-51).
1. David, unlike his brethren, didn’t care how tall 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.

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



CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW QUESTIONS TO HELP CLARIFY AND BRING CHANGE

LESSON ELEVEN

Our goal as believers is to become all Christ wants us to be. In order to do this, we go through the process of transformation. Biblical transformation involves these steps:

- A. Mental understanding of the truth we have seen or heard and active spiritual consent to bring that truth into our lives.
- B. Holding that truth against ourselves and letting it measure us—leading us into repentance and leading us out into a partnering relationship with the Holy Spirit to live out that change.

Asking the right questions facilitates this process. In that spirit, here are some helpful questions for Lesson #11:

- A. Questions for mental clarification:
 1. Why are boundaries so 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 why we can make the statement that faith is a “team-sport”?
- B. Questions for measuring yourself “against these truths”:
 1. 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?
 2. What are three examples of presumptuous sins that you can identify in your life? What have been the consequence of these sins of presumption?
 3. What have you learned from the mistakes of presumptuous sin in your life?
- C. Bringing change to the marketplace:
 1. Give some example in your work of where faith is operating as a “team-sport?” What can be done to strengthen this value?
 2. What provision is being made in your place of work to help employees understand that trials and problems are opportunities for growth and greater responsibility?
 3. What presumptuous mistakes at work have led to positive results once a process of repentance, evaluation, and re-direction has taken place?

Worldview for the Marketplace

LESSON #12

**The Beauty
of Justice**

LESSON AT A GLANCE

“The Beauty of Justice”

Threefold Cord: Stewardship Skills

MASTER PRINCIPLE #12

**Man is not “equal,”
and economic redistribution cannot make “equal” what God has made unique.**

Key scriptures:	Num. 23:22; Psa. 82:all, 89:14; Prov. 3:27, 12:10, 27:20, 30:15; Eccl. 1:8, 4:8, 5:10; Isa. 11:4, 55:2; Hab. 2:5; Hag. 1:6; Matt. 4:4, 20:10-15,26:11; Mark 8:36-37; Luke 12:48, 15:14-24; Rom. 13:7, 14:10; James 2:1-9,15,16
Key concepts found in this lesson: <i>Kingdom theology demands that believers function in justice and righteousness both personally and socially.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Christians are expected by God to become righteous and just, and 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?”
How each of these four major teaching concepts generally applies to the marketplace ministries:	
Key business applications: <i>As individuals and organizations we must practice fulfilling the financial base required to fulfill our ministry and wisely release the overflow.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God expects organizational justice and righteousness both 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.

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

Romans 8:17

—STUDY, TRAIN, OBEY—

“The Beauty of Justice”

I. MASTER PRINCIPLE #12:

Man is not “equal,” and economic redistribution cannot make “equal” what God has made unique (Prov. 3:27, 12:10; Isa. 11:4; Matt. 4:4, 26:11; Luke 12:48; Rom. 13:7, 14:10; James 2:1-9,15,16). This critical lesson deals with man's personal and social responsibilities, in the context of both a fallen world (“the poor you have with you always” Matt. 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 (Prov. 3:27; Rom. 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 (Isa. 11:4, among many).
2. Obedience to God is required of all mankind (Matt. 4:4; Rom. 14:10).
3. God is into uniqueness and individuality, as clearly manifested in His creation.
4. When we try and “help people,” if done out of God’s will, it actually hurts them (Prov. 12:10).
5. Justice is not about trying to make “everyone equal.”

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

A. As the scripture notes (Psa. 89:14), God’s throne rests on the foundations of justice and righteousness.

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 (Psa. 82:all).

B. Our friend Carl Ellis has made a simple yet profound diagram, which I have modified, displaying our responsibilities to both personal and social righteousness and justice:

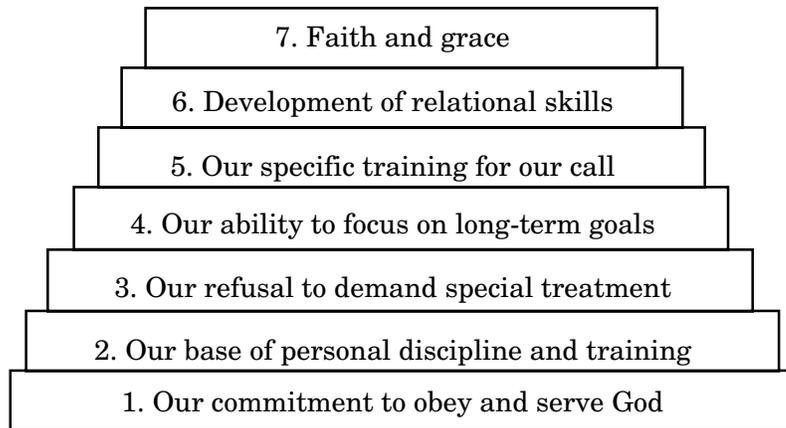
	Righteousness	Justice	Justice Issues
Our Personal Commitments to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Character • Purity • Obedience • Personal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relational and community selflessness • Biblical conflict resolution • Modesty • Gluttony 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gossip • Law breaking • Slander • Unforgiveness
Our Social Commitments to:	<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.

Worldly Deceptions	<i>We are told falsely</i> that “justice and righteousness” are relative concepts: personally, socially, and anthropologically.
Key Business Applications	<i>The truth is,</i> 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.

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

- A. As already 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 of this, our personal or social inequalities are largely worked out by the following responses we have to diligent work; personal discipline; obedience to God; and relational skills and commitments to others.

The Foundations of Success



Worldly Deceptions	<i>We are told falsely</i> that “uniqueness and skilled effort” cannot be used to justify social injustice.
Key Business Applications	<i>The truth is,</i> 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 (Num. 23:22; Prov. 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 expectations of return or even “thank you.”
 - 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	<i>We are told falsely</i> that unless we support the poor in their lifestyle, we have no heart, let alone right, to have more.
Key Business Applications	<i>The truth is</i> , 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?” (Prov. 27:20, 30:15; Eccl. 1:8, 4:8, 5:10; Isa. 55:2; Hab. 2:5; Hag. 1:6; Mark 8:36-37).

- A. One of the essential challenges of gaining resources 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 (Prov. 27:20, 30:15; Eccl. 1:8, 4:8, 5:10; Isa. 55:2; Hab. 2:5; Hag. 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. Our friend and spiritual colleague, Earl Pitts, has a fantastic set of teachings on personal finances and answering the question of “enough with a closed circle,” which we highly recommend for everyone.
 - 2. I also 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 de-humanizing myself and other people?
 - c. How much can I manage without living in destructive anxiety?
 - 3. All of these questions are answered by, “only enough to fulfill my God-ordained mission.”
- 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 backside of the rug!

Worldly Deceptions	<i>We are told falsely</i> that what I fairly acquire is mine to do with as I will.
Key Business Applications	<i>The truth is</i> , 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.



CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW QUESTIONS TO HELP CLARIFY AND BRING CHANGE

LESSON TWELVE

Our goal as believers is to become all Christ wants us to be. In order to do this, we go through the process of transformation. Biblical transformation involves these steps:

- A. Mental understanding of the truth we have seen or heard and active spiritual consent to bring that truth into our lives.
- B. Holding that truth against ourselves and letting it measure us—leading us into repentance and leading us out into a partnering relationship with the Holy Spirit to live out that change.

Asking the right questions facilitates this process. In that spirit, here are some helpful questions for Lesson #12:

- A. Questions for mental clarification:
 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.
- B. Questions for measuring myself “against these truths”:
 1. To what degree do you and your family understand the distinctions of equality discussed in the above question? Consider taking time to discuss these issues with your family.
 2. How is your local church working to extend righteousness and justice out into the community? How can you help?
 3. Has your family decided “how much is enough” (closed its circle)?
- C. Bringing change to the marketplace:
 1. How can you promote a debate-discussion in your country over the basic biblical issues of economics so as to help break the stranglehold of current ignorance and confusion?
 2. What is your company doing with its profits beyond the usual (serving investors and debt; replacing equipment; expanding services; upgrading salaries)? Why is this question important?
 3. How is your company working to extend righteousness and justice within itself and out into the marketplace? How can you help in this process?

