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## What Does the Bible Say About Business? A Complete Guide for Christian Entrepreneurs

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If you're a Christian woman in business, you've probably wondered: **What does the Bible say about business?** Here's the encouraging truth: Scripture has a *lot* to say about business, and it's overwhelmingly positive.

**The Bible presents business as a calling, not just a career.** From Genesis to Revelation, God's word reveals that commerce, entrepreneurship, and business leadership are legitimate ways to serve Him, provide for others, and advance His kingdom. Far from being separate from your faith, your business can be one of the most powerful expressions of it.

But here's where many ambitious Christian women get stuck: knowing that God cares about business and knowing how to actually run your business God's way are two different things. Maybe you're struggling to integrate biblical principles into your daily operations. Perhaps you're wondering if your ambition aligns with Christian values. Or maybe you're just tired of feeling like you have to choose between business success and spiritual faithfulness.

The beautiful truth is, you don't have to choose. When you understand what the Bible says about business, you'll discover that God has given you everything you need to build something both profitable and purposeful.

## Biblical Foundations: Business as God's Design

Let me start with something that might surprise you: **business isn't a necessary evil or worldly compromise – it's part of God's original design for humanity.**

In Genesis 1:28, God gives humanity what theologians call the "cultural mandate": *"Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth."*

This isn't just about having babies and ruling creation. The Hebrew word for "subdue" (kabash) means to develop, organize, and manage resources for human flourishing. The word for "dominion" (radah) means to lead, guide, and steward responsibly.

**In other words, God designed us to be creators, developers, and leaders,** which sounds a lot like entrepreneurship to me.

Throughout Scripture, we see God blessing business endeavors when they're conducted with integrity and purpose. Abraham was wealthy through livestock and trade. Joseph used his business acumen to save Egypt from famine. Lydia was a successful businesswoman who used her resources to advance the early church.

**What the Bible says about business is clear: when done God's way, business is ministry.**

## The Heart Behind Biblical Business Principles

Here's what I've learned after years of coaching Christian women in business: it's not *what* you do in business that matters most to God – it's *how* and *why* you do it.

**The Bible's approach to business centers on three core principles:**

1. **Stewardship Over Ownership:** Everything belongs to God, and we're managers of what He's entrusted to us. This means your business isn't ultimately yours – it's His, and you're responsible for stewarding it well.
2. **Service Over Self-Interest:** Biblical business prioritizes serving others and meeting genuine needs, not just maximizing profit. When you focus on how your business can bless others, profit often follows naturally.
3. **Kingdom Impact Over Worldly Success:** Success in God's economy includes profit, but it also includes transformation – in your own life, your team, your clients, and your community.

When I work with clients who are struggling to understand what the Bible says about business, these three principles become the foundation for every decision they make.

## What the Bible Says About Business Ethics and Integrity

One of the clearest themes when we look at what the Bible says about business is the non-negotiable importance of integrity and ethical conduct.

Proverbs 11:1 states: *"Dishonest scales are detestable to the Lord, but an accurate weight is his delight."*

In ancient times, merchants used scales to weigh goods for sale. God cares about honest measurements, fair pricing, and truthful representation of products and services. Today, this translates to transparent marketing, delivering what you promise, and treating customers, employees, and vendors with fairness and respect.

### **Here's how biblical integrity shows up in modern business:**

- **Honest Communication:** Your marketing tells the truth about what you offer. Your testimonials are real. Your promises are ones you can keep.
- **Fair Compensation:** You pay your team well and on time. You charge appropriately for your services, not undervaluing yourself or overcharging clients.
- **Quality Work:** You deliver excellence because you're ultimately working for the Lord, not just your clients (Colossians 3:23).
- **Reliable Service:** Your 'yes' means 'yes'. When you commit to a deadline, a price, or a deliverable, you honor that commitment.

I had a client who was struggling with pricing her services. She was consistently undercharging because she felt guilty about making money. When we explored what the Bible says about business and fair compensation, she realized that undervaluing her work wasn't humble – it was actually poor stewardship of the gifts God had given her.

**The Bible doesn't call us to work for free; it calls us to work with integrity.**

## **Biblical Principles for Business Growth and Success**

Here's something that might surprise you: **what the Bible says about business growth is incredibly strategic and practical.** God's word contains timeless principles that can transform how you approach scaling your business.

## Planning and Preparation

Proverbs 21:5 tells us: *"The plans of the diligent certainly lead to profit, but anyone who is reckless certainly becomes poor."*

Biblical business growth requires intentional planning, not just passion. This means:

- Setting clear, measurable goals aligned with God's direction for your business
- Creating systems and processes that can scale
- Preparing for growth before you need it
- Making decisions based on wisdom, not just emotion

## Seeking Wise Counsel

Proverbs 15:22 says: *"Plans fail when there is no counsel, but with many advisers they succeed."*

God designed us for community, and that includes the business community. Seeking mentorship, joining mastermind groups, and working with coaches isn't a sign of weakness – it's biblical wisdom.

I've seen too many Christian women in business try to figure everything out alone because they think asking for help shows a lack of faith. Friend, the opposite is true. When you're building your business God's way, seeking wise counsel is an act of humility and stewardship.

## Excellence Without Perfectionism

Ecclesiastes 9:10 instructs: *"Whatever your hands find to do, do with all your strength, because there is no work, planning, knowledge, or wisdom in Sheol where you are going."*

What the Bible says about business excellence is to give your best effort while trusting God with the results. This isn't perfectionism – it's faithful stewardship of your gifts and opportunities.

The difference? Perfectionism says, "I have to control every outcome." Biblical excellence says, "I'll give my best and trust God with the rest."

## Money, Profit, and Biblical Business Success

Let's address the elephant in the room: **Is it okay for Christians to make money in business?**

What the Bible says about business and profit might surprise you. Scripture doesn't condemn wealth or profit – it condemns the *love* of money and the pursuit of wealth at the expense of relationships and righteousness.

1 Timothy 6:10 clarifies: *"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and by craving it, some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."* Notice it doesn't say money itself is evil – it's the love of money, making it an idol, that causes problems.

**Consider these biblical examples of profitable businesses:**

- **Lydia** was wealthy enough from her purple fabric business to host Paul's entire ministry team
- **Abraham** was described as "very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold" (Genesis 13:2)

**Here's what the Bible says about business profit when it's pursued God's way:**

- **Profit with Purpose:** Your business generates income not just for your own benefit, but so you can provide for your family, employ others, and give generously to kingdom work.
- **Wealth as Stewardship:** The more God blesses your business financially, the greater your responsibility to steward those resources wisely for His purposes.
- **Success as Service:** True biblical success means your business creates value for others while generating sustainable profit for continued impact.

**Making good profit allows you to make greater impact.**

# The Role of Faith in Business Decision-Making

Here's where the rubber meets the road: **How do you actually apply what the Bible says about business to your daily decision-making?**

Proverbs 3:5-6 gives us the framework: *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; in all your ways know him, and he will make your paths straight."*

This doesn't mean you stop using business strategy or market research. It means you filter every decision through God's wisdom and direction.

## **Practical ways to integrate biblical decision-making:**

- **Start with Prayer:** Before launching a new program, making a hire, or pivoting your strategy, seek God's wisdom first.
- **Align with Scripture:** Ask yourself, "Does this decision align with biblical principles of integrity, service, and stewardship?"
- **Seek Godly Counsel:** Surround yourself with other believers who can speak wisdom into your business decisions.
- **Test the Fruit:** Does this direction produce peace, increase your ability to serve others, and align with the calling God has placed on your life?

I remember working with a client who was offered a lucrative partnership that would have doubled her revenue almost overnight. On paper, it looked perfect. But when she prayed about it, she felt unsettled. After digging deeper, she discovered the partner's business practices didn't align with her values. She turned down the opportunity, and within six months, God opened a door to an even better partnership that aligned perfectly with her mission.

**When you build your business on what the Bible says about business, God guides your steps toward opportunities that serve His purposes and your calling.**

## Building a Team According to Biblical Principles

If you're scaling your business, eventually you'll need to hire team members. **What the Bible says about business leadership and employment relationships is both challenging and encouraging.**

Colossians 4:1 instructs: *"Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven."*

In modern terms, this means treating your employees with dignity, paying them fairly, and creating a work environment that honors their humanity.

### **Biblical principles for building your team:**

- **Fair Compensation:** Pay your team members what they're worth, not the minimum you can get away with. Consider their contribution to your business's success and compensate accordingly.
- **Clear Expectations:** Be honest about job responsibilities, deadlines, and performance standards. Unclear expectations create frustration and poor results.
- **Development Opportunities:** Invest in your team's growth and skill development. Help them become better at what they do, even if it means they eventually outgrow their current role.
- **Work-Life Balance:** Respect your team's time off, family commitments, and personal boundaries. Model the kind of balance you want to see.
- **Recognition and Appreciation:** Regularly acknowledge good work and celebrate achievements, both big and small.

One client told me she was hesitant to hire her first team member because she wasn't sure she could afford to pay them well. We worked together to restructure her pricing and streamline her operations so she could offer competitive compensation from day one. The result? She attracted an incredible team member who helped her business grow exponentially.



**When you treat your team according to biblical principles, you attract people who share your values and commitment to excellence.**

## Handling Competition and Conflict Biblically

Let's be honest: business isn't always easy, and you'll face challenges with competitors, difficult clients, and marketplace pressures. **What does the Bible say about business competition and conflict resolution?**

1 Peter 2:12 guides us: *"Conduct yourselves honorably among the Gentiles, so that when they slander you as evildoers, they will observe your good works and will glorify God on the day he visits."*

### **Biblical approaches to business competition:**

- **Excellence Over Criticism:** Focus on making your own work excellent rather than criticizing competitors. Let your quality speak for itself.
- **Collaboration Over Rivalry:** Look for opportunities to partner with or refer business to others, even competitors, when it serves your clients' best interests.
- **Integrity Under Pressure:** Maintain your ethical standards even when others take shortcuts or use questionable tactics.
- **Grace in Conflict:** When disputes arise, seek resolution through honest communication and, when necessary, biblical conflict resolution processes.

I've had clients who were tempted to badmouth competitors or copy their strategies exactly. Instead, we focused on what made their own businesses unique and valuable. The result? They attracted clients who appreciated their authentic approach and distinctive value proposition.

**When you compete according to biblical principles, you build a reputation that attracts the right clients and opportunities.**

## Your Business as Ministry and Mission

Here's one of the most beautiful truths about what the Bible says about business: **your business can be one of your most powerful ministry platforms.**

Colossians 3:17 reminds us: *"And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."*

This means your business isn't separate from your ministry – it *is* your ministry.

### Ways your business becomes ministry:

- **Serving Real Needs:** Your products or services meet genuine needs in the marketplace, improving people's lives in practical ways.
- **Modeling Kingdom Values:** The way you conduct business demonstrates what it looks like to live according to God's principles.
- **Creating Jobs:** When you hire team members, you're providing income that supports families and communities.
- **Generous Giving:** Business profits enable you to support churches, ministries, and causes you care about.
- **Relationships and Influence:** Your business relationships give you opportunities to share hope, encouragement, and sometimes the Gospel itself.
- **Platform for Impact:** As your business grows, so does your platform to speak into issues you care about and influence others for good.

One of my clients runs a marketing agency specifically for nonprofits and ministries. She realized that her business expertise could help kingdom organizations reach more people and increase their impact. Now she's not just running a successful business – she's literally helping advance the Gospel through her professional skills.

**When you see your business as ministry, every client interaction becomes an opportunity to reflect God's character.**

## Overcoming Common Challenges Christian Business Owners Face

After coaching hundreds of Christian businesswomen, I've noticed some common struggles when it comes to understanding and applying what the Bible says about business. Let me address a few of the big ones:

“Is it selfish to want business success?”

**Absolutely not.** God gave you gifts, talents, and ambition for a reason. The key is ensuring your definition of success aligns with His purposes. Biblical success includes profit, but it also includes impact, integrity, and the ability to serve others generously.

“How do I balance confidence with humility?”

**Confidence in God's calling doesn't contradict humility.** You can be bold about what God has equipped you to do while remaining humble about the source of your abilities and opportunities. Humility isn't thinking less of yourself – it's thinking of yourself less.

“What if my business struggles or fails?”

**God's love for you isn't based on your business performance.** Sometimes business challenges redirect us toward better opportunities or teach us important lessons. Trust that He can work even difficult seasons together for good.

“How do I handle success without pride?”

**Remember that every good gift comes from God.** Regular gratitude, generous giving, and continued dependence on Him help keep success in proper perspective.

If you're struggling with any of these challenges, you're not alone. Learning to build a business according to biblical principles is a journey, not a destination.

## Building Your Business God's Way

Friend, understanding what the Bible says about business is just the beginning. The real question is: **How do you actually implement these principles in your daily operations?**

This is where many Christian women in business get stuck. They know what they *should* do, but they're not sure *how* to do it practically while still running a profitable, sustainable business.

**Here's the truth: you don't have to figure this out alone.**

As a Christian business coach, I've helped hundreds of women just like you learn to integrate biblical principles into every aspect of their businesses – from pricing and marketing to team building and strategic planning.

**What if you could:**

- Make confident business decisions rooted in biblical wisdom
- Build a profitable business that genuinely honors God
- Create systems and strategies that align with your values
- Scale your impact while maintaining your integrity
- Stop feeling torn between ambition and faith
- Turn your business into a powerful ministry platform

**This isn't about choosing between success and spirituality – it's about discovering how they work together when you build your business God's way.**

The women I coach don't just build profitable businesses; they build kingdom businesses that create transformation in their own lives, their families, their communities, and the world.

## Frequently Asked Questions About Biblical Business Principles

What does the Bible say about business partnerships?

The Bible encourages partnerships but emphasizes being “equally yoked” (2 Corinthians 6:14). This means partnering with people who share your values and work ethic. Successful biblical partnerships involve clear communication, shared vision, and mutual respect for each other’s contributions.

Is it biblical for women to own businesses?

Absolutely! Lydia was a successful businesswoman in Acts 16. God gifts both men and women with entrepreneurial abilities and calls both to use their talents for His glory.

How do I price my services biblically?

Biblical pricing involves charging fairly for the value you provide. This means not overcharging (which is dishonest) or undercharging (which undervalues God’s gifts in you and limits your ability to serve more people). Consider your expertise, the transformation you provide, and market rates when setting prices.

What does the Bible say about business debt?

The Bible doesn’t forbid business debt but warns against being “enslaved” to lenders (Proverbs 22:7). Wise business debt is strategic, manageable, and used to grow your ability to serve others. Avoid debt that creates anxiety or compromises your ability to operate with integrity.

Can I be competitive and still follow biblical business principles?

Yes! Biblical competition means striving for excellence in your own work rather than tearing down others. Focus on serving your clients better, improving your skills, and creating unique value. Healthy competition can actually drive innovation and better service.

How do I handle difficult clients biblically?

Set clear boundaries with grace, communicate honestly about expectations, and when necessary, lovingly release clients who aren't a good fit. The Bible calls us to be wise as serpents and innocent as doves (Matthew 10:16) – which means being both kind and discerning in business relationships.

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*Are you ready to build your business according to biblical principles? Download my free 4 Keys to Redefine Hustle guide (<http://erinharrigan.com/4Keys>) or schedule a discovery call (<http://erinharrigan.com/discoverycall>) to explore how Christian business coaching can help you honor God while building a profitable, purposeful business.*

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