

FIVE REASONS FOR INTEGRATING FAITH AND WORK**By Rick Boxx**

There are those who contend that faith and work do not mix and should be kept mutually exclusive. Nothing could be further from the truth. There are countless examples of people whose faith in God propelled them to success in the business pursuits while being effective representatives for Him in the marketplace. Here are five reasons for integrating our faith with our work on an everyday basis.

To please God. As a hobby videographer, Alex Kendrick dreamed of producing movies that boldly proclaimed faith in God. There was a problem: He was an associate pastor at a small-town church in Georgia. He had no money, and there were no actors nearby. Producing movies seemed impossible. However, Alex desired to please God with his films. Working with his brothers Stephen and Shannon, in faith they raised \$100,000 and produced *Facing the Giants*, which grossed more than \$10 million at the box office. Hebrews 11:6 says, *“Now without faith it is impossible to please God, since the one who draws near to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him.”*

God rewards those who earnestly seek Him. In 1955, Stanley Tam’s heart was stirred by the desire to see people in the nation of Colombia come to know God. Tam prayed earnestly to God about his request, but the Lord impressed upon him it would require surrendering 100% ownership of his company. Even though this seemed an unusual, even unprecedented command, Tam obeyed, turning over all the stock in his company to an evangelistic foundation. Years later he joyfully told me, “Since making that commitment, we have funded over \$200 million in evangelism efforts.” Psalm 37:5 declares, *“Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass.”* Faith, incorporated into your business life, comes with incredible rewards – especially being used by God.

God’s wisdom provides better results than any consultant. David Green, in his book, *More Than a Hobby*, explains why he decided to close his Hobby Lobby stores on Sundays. Even though he learned it could cost him \$100 million annually, Green turned to God for counsel. Proverbs 8:10 teaches, *“Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold, for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her.”* Green followed God’s wisdom, allowing his people a day a week for rest and worship. He says it was one of the best decisions he ever made.

Faith in the workplace changes lives. I had been hiding from God for 20 years when I started working for Gregg. When I needed answers to business issues, Gregg never shied away from quoting a proverb or telling me about a parable from the Bible. His servant leadership approach was different from anything I had ever experienced. Gregg’s courage and willingness to incorporate his faith into his business practices changed my life and eventually resulted in my desire to teach millions to do likewise. In Hebrews 10:38 God says, *“But My righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back.”* Incorporating courageous faith in your workplace does change lives for eternity.

God can transform entire workplaces. Seth felt God was instructing him to stay employed at a large hardware store until every employee heard about Jesus Christ. Obediently, Seth began a Bible study and a prayer group at work. By the time God released Seth from the store two years later, all 170 employees had heard about Jesus and 100 of them had received Jesus as their Lord. *“...and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”* (Acts 1:8).

CBMC INTERNATIONAL: Christopher Simpson, President csimpson@cbmcint.org
P.O. Box 182078 ▪ Shelby Township, Michigan 48318 ▪ U.S.A.
TEL.: 520-334-1114 ▪ E-MAIL: mmanna@cbmcint.org
Website: www.cbmcint.com Please direct any requests or change of address to: amacri@cbmcint.org

Reflection/Discussion Questions

1. How do you feel about people sharing their faith in the workplace?
2. What are some of the possible problems that can occur when someone shares his or her faith with colleagues, employees, customers, clients or suppliers? What safeguards do you think are necessary?
3. Have you experienced ways in which you have tried to integrate your faith in God with how you approach your work each day? If so, what are some examples? What kind of response did you receive?
4. Why do you think there is opposition to people seeking to live out their faith through their work, as well as in other areas of their lives?

NOTE: If you have a Bible and would like to read more, consider the following passages: Proverbs 22:29; 2 Corinthians 5:19-20; Ephesians 2:10; Colossians 3:17,23-24

Challenge for This Week

Have you ever wondered why God has placed you in the kind of work that you do – and the specific place where you work? Take some time this week to pray and consider, if you have not already done so, what the Lord would desire to do through you in the workplace.

It might be helpful to discuss this with some close friends, a mentor, and perhaps members of your CBMC group. Invite them to offer their perspectives.