

From the Handbook of Business, the Bible

21: Set your house in order

Let's talk about a planning issue that should be a concern to all Christians!

In my 40+ years advising business owners on issues from management to marketing to strategic planning, one is a standout...and statistics indicate it hasn't improved in all that time!

I refer to the subject matter of today's verse, taken from **Isaiah 38:1** in the Amplified...

"...Hezekiah, king of Judah, became sick and was at the point of death. Isaiah the prophet...came to him and said...the LORD says, set your house in order and prepare a Will, for you shall die..." Note...

...This was not a suggestion or an item on the King's meeting agenda, but a command of God
...The king's house included his own assets & a very large business, namely the nation of Judah
...A written Will meant the King would not leave distribution & control of those assets to chance.

What do the statistics indicate?

It seems the majority of people struggle dealing with what is, after all, the inevitability of death.

Ignoring it doesn't make it go away; nor does, *they can sort it out when I'm gone*; OR, *I'll get round to it one day* is also not a logical plan because no one knows when they will draw their last breath!

...Whatever the reason, more than 50% of adults die without a valid Will (i.e., none or out-of-date)
...And Christians make up about half the population!

This is not good enough. We are stewards of a portion of the planet Jesus gives us to manage; and good stewardship demands we consider our assets & our heirs; put bluntly, who gets what!

Is preparing a Will difficult?

No, once you engage a lawyer; to you the process may seem complex but to them, it's a relatively simple task and believe me, they will have seen your situation many times before...

Beware of trying to do your own Will because of the risk of mistakes; for example:

- * 'Money' doesn't include bank accounts
- * Super is not dealt with in your Will, but by direct instruction to the fund trustees
- * Business structure assets such as company shares, loan accounts, etc are complicated
- * Then there is the modern issue of blended families to take into consideration.

I appreciate you may have been putting this task off through ignorance, fear or simply, low priority. But now you've been reminded, just like Hezekiah was, it's time to act.

Imagine going to glory leaving behind a big mess for your family & staff to sort out; and with the carve-up dictated by a legal formula that would never align with what you or Jesus would want.

Are there any other issues business owners should consider?

One in particular for business owners: you need what I call a Business Operations Continuance Plan. This sets out what happens re staff, customers & ops IF you don't turn up tomorrow!

Counsel: As it turned out King Hezekiah survived another 15 years; BUT that near death experience forced him to face one of the realities of life namely the inevitability of death! We must do likewise.

And once your Will is done, there will be peace of mind knowing you have set your house in order!