From the Handbook of Business, the Bible

33: God made everything with a purpose

Let's consider a fundamental question: WHY does your business exist?

Over the years, I've asked lots of people why they started in business; typically, it's been, *to make money; to achieve financial independence; to be my own boss*. All fair & reasonable, but for Christian owners, not the best answers! Our purpose in business is to honour the Master by serving others.

In 1970, Milton Freidman, Nobel Prize winning economist, declared *the sole purpose of a business is to make as much money as possible for shareholders*. This is not good advice, frankly it's a lie.

Does the Bible help answer this question of purpose?

Most definitely! We need to understand key scriptures, including these two awesome verses…

"GOD made everything with a place and purpose…" **Proverbs 16:4 MSG**

"…whatsoever is under the whole heaven is mine" **Job 41:11 KJV**

Thus, 'everything' is His, including us, our gifts, our destiny, our business assets and our $$.

The truth is, Jesus is the sole shareholder in all our businesses; we are His steward/managers.

The question then becomes, what is His purpose for the business you manage?

First, the owner requires you to manage it for His glory (1 Corin. 10:31) …

* Not to treat it as your personal money-making fiefdom
* In prayer daily, commit all business assets, people, decisions, etc to God (Prov 16:3)
* It follows that every such business could & should be # 1 in their marketplace.

Second, to use the business asset as an integral part of your ministry…

* Clearly, that doesn't mean from Monday to Saturday then doing church on Sunday
* We are His ambassadors and witnesses, full time, wherever we are.

Third, our kingdom mission is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ…

* Your business impacts staff, customers, suppliers, community, all of whom need the gospel
* Therefore, as you invest so much of your life there, it is a key part of your missionfield.

How can people use their business wisely, for His glory?

A successful business should be able to operate smoothly in your absence. In other words, when you undertake to develop & document great systems and hire conscientious people with hearts to serve, you can gradually hand them control of the day-to-day operations.

This is a testimony to how you applied Handbook principles to prepare the business for such an outcome. Then you're free to pursue your God-given life mission as per the Master's will.

Let me say, there is nothing unscriptural about earning a profit, even a large profit. Indeed, without it, a business would fail and there is no witness or ministry in a failed business! But you do need to have things in order regarding ownership, management and purpose.

Get this right and you can be assured everything you manage is done so with a kingdom purpose.