

The Handbook for Business, the Bible

#33: A threefold cord is not quickly broken

It takes a team to grow a successful business on behalf of the owner (Jesus) - a manager (you), staff, customers, suppliers, advisers, etc.

Being in business is not just our vocation, it's also our ministry. As Christians in the marketplace, we can and should be making a difference in all those people's lives...because we are the salt & light.

A dendrology (trees) lesson: A business compared to Aust redgums & Californian redwoods:

Although they are a tough, the **redgum** has a fairly shallow root system. In the bush they grow haphazardly, standing **alone**, making them susceptible to high winds.

The Californian Redwood is different. It also has shallow roots; but for every 1 metre it grows UP the roots grow 3 metres OUT. Thus a 100-metre tree is supported by 300 metres of roots, intermingled so they actually hold each other up; hence, Redwoods never fall over!

Charles Spurgeon said: *'In the forest supporting each other, trees laugh at the hurricane'*

We Aussies are a bit like our gum trees: tough, independent, competitive - *'I'll do it my way; a 'big boys don't cry' kind of attitude.*

Over the years I have seen too many examples of business owners who believed they had to make all the big decisions, alone...OR sought advice from a wrong source; I've done both myself.

...Either way, the outcome can be very costly, especially for Christians in business!

In tough times, like now, we can prosper & grow by supporting each other:

"Two are better than one, because they have a reward for their labour...if they fall, one will lift up his companion...woe to him that is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up...though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken"

Solomon's wisdom - Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Another version declares: *"A rope that has three parts wrapped together is hard to break"*

In God's Kingdom, we're not meant to operate alone; nor in the world; nor in business.

The Apostle Paul confirms the concept of a unified team:

"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase...Now he who plants and he who waters are one...For we are God's fellow workers..." (1 Corinthians 3:6-9) - note: the 'team' of three

Picture again those Californian Redwoods, dwelling together in unity, giving & receiving from one other; holding each other up; laughing at the hurricane; surviving, thriving.

As a Covid financial hurricane has descended on our nation, we need to stand together to get through the inevitable mess it is creating in our lives, nation & marketplace.

What better time to be planning for this outcome than right now?

With that in mind - who is part of your threefold cord? And who should be?