

UNCONVENTIONAL

L

Love God

E

Excellence

A

Appreciate
Others

D

Driven by
Purpose

I

Integrity

N

No
Bondage

G

Generous

No Bondage, *Business Owner Edition*



UNCONVENTIONAL BUSINESS NETWORK

UBN exists to cultivate a vibrant network of Biblically principled small business leaders who are united by a vision of one million connected business leaders modeling Biblical principles in the workplace. We journey together to:

- ▣ change lives
- ▣ transform workplaces
- ▣ impact communities

for God's glory.

Learn more about UBN at UnconventionalBusiness.org

N is for No Bondage



Business owners who are free from bondage at work do not have addictions, vices or idols that hinder their relationship with God. They manage to keep the demands of their business from controlling their lives. They are not under the burden of long-standing debt and are not unequally yoked. Priorities are well maintained so that they have a balanced life.

“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.” – Galatians 5:1

Journal your initial thoughts here: _____

What follows are insights and Scripture references for each of the five practices included in the LEADING Assessment that relate to **No Bondage**. Each brief discussion is designed to affirm practices you already have in place, while revealing areas that you may want to address. Space is also provided to document your thoughts after reading each section, titled “Reflection and Application.”

Let’s now consider these practices:

- I do not have any addictions, vices or idols that hinder my relationship with God.
- I manage to keep business demands from controlling my life.
- If I closed my business on any given day, I could pay my debts.
- The company’s ownership reflects God’s desire for me to be equally yoked.
- I manage priorities to maintain a balanced life.



Business owners not enslaved to bondage are free from any addictions, vices or idols that hinder their relationship with God.

Alcohol and other drug use disorders cost American businesses and organizations an average of \$81 billion in lost profits every year according to *Psychology Today* magazine. While there are many forms of addiction—from alcohol, to prescription drugs, to pornography—there’s no doubt they have a huge impact on the workplace.

Reflection & Application _____

When the demands of business control a business owner’s life, that is a sign that he or she may be under bondage.

Work is a gift from God and is meant to be enjoyed. At the same time, we should not allow it to wreak havoc on our marriages, our family’s lives or our personal lives. God makes it clear in [1 Corinthians 6:12](#) that we are not to be mastered by anything, including our work. *“I have the right to do anything,’ you say – but not everything is beneficial. I have the right to do anything’ – but I will not be mastered by anything.”*

Reflection & Application _____

Business owners free of the bondage of debt could pay all debts if their business closed today.

The idea of taking on debt is not a sin in Scripture, but the wise person will avoid the trap of debt. [Proverbs 22:7](#) says, *“The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is a slave to the lender.”* For those who have taken on the burden of debt, the counsel is to be free from it quickly, *“Free yourself like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter, like a bird from the snare of the fowler.”* [Proverbs 6:5](#).

Business owners are under bondage when they are unequally yoked with business partners.

The world may try to influence you to take on any investor or partner that has cash. When you are strapped for cash in business, it seems like a good idea. But Scripture counsels us to be wise about with whom we are “yoked.” This includes being wise in your business partnerships.

In [2 Corinthians 6:14](#), Paul counsels, *“Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?”* Just as you need to be wise in making decisions about whom you marry, you should be wise about your choice of business partners. Choose people who will not hinder what God desires to do in and through your work.

Reflection & Application _____

▣ A balanced life is one sign that a business owner is not under bondage.

For all of us, there needs to be a balance of things physical, mental and spiritual. Nowhere in Scripture is this more apparent than the story of sisters Mary and Martha ([Luke 10](#)). Both sisters were serving their Lord, only Martha thought her way of service was superior to Mary’s. Be sure that you aren’t so busy doing things *for* Jesus that you are not spending adequate time *with* Jesus.

What does this “unbalanced life” look like in the workplace? Maybe you’re skipping your quiet time in the morning to get into the office early. Or maybe your physical needs aren’t being met—you’re skipping lunch to make more sales calls or you’re working late so you miss your evening exercise.

In all things, find a balance. Keeping your nose to the grindstone benefits no one; in the long run, it can even interfere with productivity.

Reflection & Application _____

Closing Remarks

Underlying issues limit our success. Bondage can set limits on our success and cause us to be restricted. In fact, the very definition of bondage is the state of being severely constricted or restrained by obligations or circumstances. The opposite of bondage is freedom. God wants us to live in freedom and not be enslaved to bondage.

Consider again the encouragement found in [Galatians 5:1](#), “*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.*”

.

Ready for the next step?

You are not alone in your desire to incorporate your faith with your work. There are other business leaders just like you, around the corner and around the globe, on the same faith + work journey. Bringing your faith into your workplace can be risky. You fear rejection and criticism or the risk of losing something you feel is important—profits, that job promotion, or key employees—because God’s way of doing business does not always match with conventional business practices.

ENTER COMMUNITY.

God’s Word encourages us to continue to meet regularly to spur each other on towards good works. Because of this, UBN established itself as a leader in faith + work events, resources and leadership communities that connect faithforward small businesses—all designed to encourage, inspire and strengthen you as you bring your faith into your workplace. Please take advantage of the community and resource links provided below.

Next steps

Virtual Events: Network Connects

We invite you to register for a free upcoming virtual event in which small business leaders from around the globe gather and learn from prominent faith + work leaders.

Register Today 

Leadership Communities

Ready to dive right in? Please visit our website with the links below. Both in-person and virtual groups are forming now. (*Member fees apply.*)

Forums are designed for business leaders, regardless of role.

Learn more at UnconventionalBusiness.org/Forums

Roundtables are designed for small business owners, CEOs and partners.

Learn more at UnconventionalBusiness.org/Roundtables

Workday Devotional: Integrity Moments

If you haven’t already subscribed to Integrity Moments, our 60 second workday devotional, we encourage you to sign up today for your [complimentary subscription](#).

