



Business Ethics

Video Notes

Discussion Questions

1. Someone once said, “Ethics is the difference between legality and morality. It’s the difference between what I ought to do and what the law demands I do”. Making decisions as a Christian workplace and/or business leader shouldn’t be difficult, yet many struggle with it. When you are faced with an ethical decision, do you rely on yourself, your family, your faith or other sources and why?

2. Timothy 3:16 (NIV) says, “*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness*”. As Christian workplace and/or business leaders, it is important that we help shape the culture ethically by practicing our faith in every discipline of business. If we believe that the Bible is time tested, consistent and rooted in wisdom, then why is making ethical decisions so difficult at times? Share some stories of when you were faced with an ethical decision and what you did right or wrong.

3. Many great leaders believe that integrity and ethics are essential to success. When King David was about to die, he gave his son Solomon the following advice. “*Do what the LORD your God commands and follow his teachings. Obey everything written in the Law of Moses. Then you will be a success, no matter what you do or where you go.*” 1 Kings 2:3 (NIV). Read Matthew 7:12 and Leviticus 25:14. What are other ethics you practice?

4. Many would argue that being honest and authentic in your workplace and/or business are the number 1 attributes of business ethics. Proverbs 19:1 (NIV) says, *“Better is a poor person who walks in his integrity than one who is crooked in speech and is a fool.”* Do you agree and why?

5. Rick mentioned 3 ways you can develop an ethical code for your workplace and/or business: 1. Make your organization values-based not rules-based, 2. Develop Biblical core values and define them; model, reward and hold people accountable to your values, and 3. Share any ethics guidelines your company has and discuss how you can incorporate these into your workplace and/or business.

Application

When it comes to workplace and/or business ethics, you have a decision. You can become reactive and driven by moral relativism or you can be proactive and develop a values-driven culture that is rooted in God’s Word. What is one step you can take to moving your organization toward being more ethical and help it flourish?

Going Deeper

This section is an extension of the above material and is designed for a deeper study/devotion on your own. Read the scripture below and take some time to journal and put this content into practice to help shape your culture at work.

1. Being ethical in the workplace and/or business as a Christian, means reflecting the character of God. In Scripture, we find 3 characteristics of God that are repeated: Holiness, Justice and Love. Read Colossians 3:1-6 and write down how you can make ethical decisions based on these 3 characteristics and what you can do to move your organization forward ethically.

2. In 2015, U.S. News published an article titled, *“The Bible is a Good Business Guide”*.

In the article, it says, “Business leaders that adhere to principles with clear biblical origins are more successful.” It then says, “Leaders that adhere to these timeless principles are establishing standards that change the way we work and improve our corporate culture. They increase productivity, deliver corporate profits and are socially responsible. This kind of leadership produces results that are measurable on Wall Street, to employees, and in the communities where the companies do business.” Write down one thing you will do tomorrow to help in your ethical decision making and grow you to become a biblical workplace and/or business leader.

3. Find 5 additional scriptures that talk about ethics and integrity and write them down here.

Spend time each day praying about ways you can become more ethical and how you can help your company establish a code of ethics.
