

THE INTEGRATED LIFE



STUDY QUESTIONS

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PART 1

CHAPTER 1 – UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

- What do you think about the expression “Ministry is ministry, Business is Business” [p. 8]
- What did you think would happen when you accepted Jesus as Lord in terms of career? [p. 8]
- What urge are you feeling from God with respect to marketplace? [p. 10]
- Have you ever found yourself asking any of these questions about faith and work? [p. 12]
- Where have you found support in finding answers/solutions regarding you and the marketplace?

CHAPTER 2 – TRYING TO KEEP UP

- Do you find yourself identifying with any of these thoughts and feelings? [p. 20]
- What aspects of your work life or job make it difficult to connect work and faith?
- How do you look at “security” for yourself in the work setting?
- What metaphor do you use to describe the workplace? [p. 20] ie: fast paced “jungle.”

CHAPTER 3 – THE COMPARTMENTALIZED LIFE

- Do you see compartmentalization as a reality in the church?
- Have you identified with the schizophrenic, double-minded, or serial attitudes? [p. 25-26]
- What do you think of the paradigm for balance and integration presented? Do you need to focus on one (or both) of these?
- “Think about how you can bring spiritual significance to more of your life.” [p. 35] What do you do that has eternal significance? What gives it significance?
- The chapter concludes with a vision of a new paradigm in the form of “what if...” statements. Which of these seem really powerful concepts to you?

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PART 2

CHAPTER 4 – THE REAL GOAL OF BUSINESS

- Define the purpose of business. Which of God’s purposes and roles does it fulfill?
- What is the purpose of profits in a business?
- How is wealth and value created in a business transaction?
- What does “to the glory of God” imply? (Col 3:23)
- What is God’s use, purpose, or intention for your industry?
- In regard to your life goals, could you define success?

CHAPTER 5 – WHERE DO BUSINESS PRINCIPLES COME FROM?

- Explain what Richard Whately’s quote means. [p. 52]
- How have you seen self-interest as the guiding moral standard in the workplace?
- What is the relationship between “character” and “values?”
- List the values in Appendix B that are most important to you and to your work or business.

CHAPTER 6 – SPIRITUAL CAPITAL

- Define “spiritual capital” as Eldred uses the term.
- What is its role in the economic development of nations?
- How does spiritual capital affect the success of a society?
- How does a Christ-follower give life to the marketplace? [p. 75]

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PART 3

CHAPTER 7 – PROFIT & WEALTH

- What is your perception of profit and wealth within the church today?
- What is the role of profit?
- What is the role of wealth creation in a society?
- How is wealth created?
- Who or what is the source of wealth?
- How is wealth to be used?
- List some of the pitfalls of wealth.

CHAPTER 8 – THE SPIRITUAL ROLE OF WORK AND BUSINESS

- Define your perception of work and how this compares to the readings.
- Have you experienced God’s calling on your career (vocation)?
- How does your work serve God?
- What is the “three-fold ministry” in our work life? How does that look in your specific work situation?

CHAPTER 9 – UNMASKING THE COMMON GOAL OF CHURCH AND BUSINESS

- What is the “sacred-secular divide?”
- In what ways does it marginalize Christians and churches?
- What can a church/a Christian/a business do to mitigate the “sacred-secular divide?”
- Give reasons why you would agree or disagree with Eldred’s assertion that church and business have congruent mission.
- Does your church emphasize your “outside mission” and equip you for it?
- Explain what is meant by “converting cruise ships to aircraft carriers.”#

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PART 4

CHAPTER 10 – PARTNERING WITH GOD TO LEVERAGE YOUR RESULTS

- What do the promises of son-ship (Gal 4:4-7) and inheritance (Eph 1:1-14) mean in terms of your business life?
- How do you need to change to allow God to be a partner in your work?
- How is your path at work being directed?
- How are you spiritually preparing each day? What's working? What's not working? What do you need to do more of or less of?
- How would you know if God was calling you out of your current work? How has called you out of previous jobs?

CHAPTER 11 – LIVING YOUR FAITH AT WORK

- What was the last work incident that brought you real joy?
- What is your strategy or plan for serving others with your work/company?
- What is your strategy or plan for ministry within the sphere of influence created by your work/company?
- List some things that would tend to earn the right to be heard. Relate 1 Pet 3:15 to workplace ministry and earning the right to be heard.

CHAPTER 12 – SERVING OTHERS TO THE GLORY OF GOD

- What is your personal mission statement—the statement of what you feel God has called you to do?
- What have you learned from God in your last three jobs or positions at work?
- From your point of view, rank order the eight considerations from Mackenzie and Kirkland [p. 168] for yourself in terms of strongest to weakest. Which of these is the most important to you?

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PART 5

CHAPTER 13 – THE SHEPHERD OF THE RITZ

- Did these stories give you any ideas about how to better integrate your faith and your work?
- Has God led you to use your job/business as your ministry? If so, tell your own case study.

CHAPTER 14 – TRANSFORMING THE MARKETPLACE

- Are you a thermometer or a thermostat?
- Describe how wealth and value are created in and for your community by your job/business. [p. 189]
- How do your “transactions” at work reflect the love of Jesus? How could they better do that?
- Do you think of yourself as a transforming agent in the marketplace?

CHAPTER 15 – VENTURING INTO THE INTEGRATED BUSINESS LIFE

- Consider how the following might lead to greater integration in your life: [p. 195]
- How should you prioritize and balance the different areas of your life?
- How can you bear the likeness of Jesus at work by exhibiting more of the fruit of the Spirit in your job?
- What are your talents and life missions, including the mission God has in mind for your work life?
- What changes in attitude and approach to work are necessary to experience an integrated, abundant work life?
- What can you do to transform your company or marketplace?
- How can you make God your senior partner to supercharge your impact at work?