

Church on Sunday, Work on Monday: The Challenge of Fusing Christian Values with Business Life

By

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Reflection/Discussion Questions

Chapter 1: Spirituality Goes to Work, the Church Stays Away: Religious Disconnects in American Business Lives

1. What idea in this chapter had special meaning for you? Why did it have special meaning?
2. Why do the authors raise the concept of a “new spirituality”?
3. How do this concept and its relationship with business affect you?
4. What impact would this concept, if brought to action, have on the situations in which you live and work?
5. What first step would begin to operationalize the concept of a relationship between spirituality and work in your life?

Chapter 2: Between Worlds: Attempts to Integrate Religion and Business

1. What idea in this chapter had special meaning for you? Why did it have special meaning?
2. How do you try to integrate your spiritual life and your work life? How would you prefer to bring about that integration?
3. Why do you think the integration of religion and business is important or not important?
4. What first step could you take to bring about a better integration than you now experience? What benchmarks would you seek to apply?
5. What would happen if you take that first step and follow up beyond that?

Chapter 3: Not Our Modus Operandi: The Church’s Response to Business

1. What idea in this chapter had special meaning for you? Why did it have special meaning?
2. What responses to business have you most recently perceived by your church, your parish?
3. Why do you think those responses exist?
4. How could those responses be changed? What difference in content? In process?
5. What changes do you think would occur in your life, in your workplace, if your church’s responses could be changed along the lines you propose?
6. How would that make you feel?

Chapter 4: Testing the Relationship: Mapping a Framework for Integrating Church and Business

1. What idea in this chapter had special meaning for you? Why did it have special meaning?
2. What is the framework that the authors are proposing for understanding the relationship between church and business?
3. Why are they proposing that framework?
4. How does that framework help you to understand the actual and potential relationships between church life and business life?
5. What do you think would be the impact of utilizing this framework in your place of business?
6. What first step could you take toward implementing that framework in your life?
7. How would that make you feel?

Chapter 5: You Just Don't Understand: Communication Gaps Between Church and Business

1. What idea in this chapter had special meaning for you? Why did it have special meaning?
2. Why do think the gaps mentioned in this chapter exist?
3. What is the impact of these gaps on the church? On people in business?
4. How do you think these gaps came into being?
5. What if your clergy and your co-workers recognized the existence of these gaps?

Chapter 6: Turf Wars: Overcoming Negative Stereotypes and Notions of Proper Roles

1. What idea in this chapter had special meaning for you? Why did it have special meaning?
2. What aspects of the turf wars described in this chapter have you seen or experienced?
3. Why do you think these turf wars exist?
4. How do you think stereotypes of church about business and business about church affect the development of the spiritual life of lay people involved in business?
5. If the stereotypes were recognized as stereotypes by both church and business, what are the chances for changes in the way each approaches and listens to the other?
6. How would that make you feel?

Chapter 7: Different Voices: The Problem of Language and Pluralism

1. What idea in this chapter had special meaning for you? Why did it have special meaning?
2. What is your perception of the role of language in the church-business disconnect?
3. Why does language appear to have the effect of separating the church and business realms of life?
4. How do you think the language issue could be addressed to remove or reduce the separation effect?
5. How would that make you feel?

Chapter 8: The New Terms of Religious Engagement: How Church and Business Can Work Together

1. What idea in this chapter had special meaning for you? Why did it have special meaning?
2. What are the main ideas or suggestions of this chapter?
3. Why do the authors think these suggestions are viable? What is your opinion of them?
4. How could these suggestions be implemented in your circumstances?
5. What would be the changes in your business & church environment be if these suggestions were implemented?
6. What first step could you take toward the implementation of these suggestions?
7. How would you feel about taking that first step before taking it? After taking it?

Chapter 9: The Road Ahead

1. What idea in this chapter had special meaning for you? Why did it have special meaning?
2. Why do you think the authors thought it necessary to include guidelines for connecting church and work?
3. What do you think would be the impact of acting within those guidelines?
4. What guidelines do you think are most significant for your circumstances?

Considering the book as a whole

1. What idea in this book had the strongest special meaning for you? Why did it have such meaning for you?
2. What do you see as the core around which the content book is built?
3. In what ways has the book been significant in developing your view of the relationship between church and work?
4. How do you expect to apply the concepts in this book to your life?
5. If you actually apply the two or three ideas that you see as key, what will change in your life?
6. How would feel about that?