

THEOPRENEURICAL LEADERSHIP

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Abstract

Early Christians made the marketplace the focal point of their ministry because their occupations regularly took them there. Marketplace people played a vital role in the emergence, establishment and expansion of the early church. This was possible because they saw the marketplace as their parish and their business as a pulpit.

Christian businessman or Theopreneur generally lives in dual world, in church as congregation and market place as his working place. The output generated is wealth or blessing which undoubtedly provided by God who gives the power to get wealth.

Theopreneurial Leadership, the blending of theology, entrepreneurship and leadership with biblical truth to unfold the secret for Theopreneurs on how to utilize their talents to exercise the resources from God as a steward and not an owner to bless people and fulfill God's plan for their lives through business. Successful Christian businessman have the opportunity to influence the lives of many people; employees, suppliers, business associates, family and friends, community leaders, governmental officials, and others. This will give significant impact upon the laws, policies and procedures in our communities

Keyword *theopreneurial leadership; theopreneur*

INTRODUCTION

In the early church, marketplace was the focal point for the activities of Christian businessmen or theopreneurs because it is the place where their work is done. It is natural for these men or women to preach the gospel to the people they meet when they do their business. The early church, as in described Acts 18:13, shows Paul, Priscilla and Aquila as business partners working together as tentmakers while also participating in ministry and giving witness

aaccompanied by spiritual signs and wonders performed by God. The Bible records only one of forty manifestations of the power of God in the apostles' story, taking place in the temple of God, namely a paralyzed man at the temple gate, while the rest occurred in the marketplace. Essentially Paul, Priscilla and Aquila's position was that they

understood themselves as businessman / woman or theopreneurs; therefore the marketplace at the time of the early church functioned as the most important place for the development of the early church. Meanwhile, the followers of the Lord Jesus were also engaged in full-time ministry. This is possible because they regard the marketplace as their ministry field and business platform.

The life of a Christian businessman or Theopreneur usually is engaged in two areas: life in the world of the church where they serve and the secular world where they work.

The theopreneurs of today preoccupy their success in business and as a result, they do not want to use their wealth to glorify God by conducting ministry in the marketplace. They merely come to church on Sunday and give offerings, whereas ministry is considered as the duty of pastors or full timers.

Business, education and government are marketplace. There are three institutions where ministry should be done: local churches, families and marketplaces, among the three places the marketplace is a place that many people still have not saved.

Believers regardless of their profession, men or women are the elect and anointed of the Lord Jesus (Acts 10:38); The Lord is Jesus Head of the Church (Colossians 1:18), Psalm 133: 2 "It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on

the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe." Oil is a symbol of anointing. The same anointing in the Lord Jesus as the head of the church.

Christians as the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27) also receive the same anointing. Anointing is the grace that gives us the ability (God-given ability) to carry out God-assigned duties. Theopreneurs as members of the body of Christ will achieve God's promises that are in line with His word and build a treasury of assets that generates wealth for the glory of God. The Theopreneur must be able to apply Theopreneurial Leadership that is leadership of managing wealth or blessing based on biblical principles.

In his book 'Business-Family-Religion' Dr Yahya Wijaya quoted a statement by Radius Prawiro, an ex-cabinet minister of Indonesia in a seminar promoting national awareness held by the Indonesian Christian Church Denomination, i.e.:

.....believes that the church should remind business people of the guidance and signals drawn from the bible which point to several factors crucial for economic life. For him, these "guidance and signals" can be elaborated in terms of the relation of business to faith, the relation of business to social environment, the relevance of Christian virtues for business, and the role of God in business.

Fairholm (1997) states that there is a connection between leadership and spirituality, saying in his book that *"Spirituality is a new notion in leadership"*. Fairholm maintains that the heart and soul of a leader directly connects with his beliefs, desires and values, this is the connection between leadership and spirituality.

Fairholm states that leadership is different from management because leadership is a matter of touching the souls of individuals, not supervising their work. According to Fairholm *"The source of a leaders' vision is his or her individual sense of spirituality"*

Delbecq conducted research into Christian leadership and the role of spirituality in 1999. The research gives evidence that the spiritual values of a Christian leader empower them with spiritual strength, wisdom and appeal that have a wide impact that positively increases the rate of their effectiveness.

Other researchers also agree on the conclusion that there is a connection between successful leadership and spiritual values, this is supported by Marcic (1997) who conducted a historical research studying the relationship between effective leadership and spirituality. Marinoble in 1990 in a study involving ten leaders who are categorically successful concluded that there is a positive correlation between spiritual values with success as a leader.

There are various definitions and types or styles of leadership, the writer will limit the type of leadership in this paper entitled

Spiritual Leadership. This type of leadership seeks for divine guidance in leading wherever they may be serving. They are needed both in the marketplace and in the church. According to Fry, the concept of spiritual values in leadership lies between intrinsic motivation combined with vision, unconditional love and hope or faith.

The model of spiritual value includes values, attitude, and behavior that are essentially needed to motivate one self and followers to have a sense spirituality through a calling and membership; Fry did not mention the source of the spirituality perhaps with the purpose to avoid discrimination against other beliefs.

The researcher quotes Kriger and Seng (2005) in his writing in *Emerging Leadership Journey* issued by Regent University School of Global Leadership & Entrepreneurship that:

.....Spiritual beliefs include having faith and hope in a personal and loving God, desiring to be close to God and having higher calling to serve God.

Kenneth O'Ganel the author of the book *Team Leadership in Christian Ministry* defined Spiritual Leadership as:

The development of relationship with the people of Christian institution or body in such a way that individuals and the group are enabled to formulate and achieve

biblically compatible goals that meet real needs. By their ethical influence, spiritual leaders serve to motivate and enable others to achieve what otherwise would never be achieved.

The spiritual values of leadership guides people towards the fulfillment of God's plan that is the key of spiritual leadership.

Henry and Richard Blackaby, father and son, founder and leader of Emeritus Blackaby Ministries International in their book entitled *Spiritual Leadership* defines Spiritual leadership as "Moving people to God's agenda"

This is a very simple definition but containing a very profound meaning and is crucially central to spiritual leadership. We have to realize that people (followers) compel the leader to compromise the good plan made by the leader, for example the case of Samuel in the Bible even though The Lord Himself gave a way out for him without creating concern by his followers.

Spiritual leadership is not identical to how leadership is understood in general but there are some characteristic elements that makes Spiritual Leadership different from leadership in general.

Spiritual Leadership according to Henry and Richard Blackaby:

1. *The spiritual's task is to move people, to influence and mobilize people to enter into the fulfillment of God's plan after the leader understands the*

guidance of God that he receives.

2. *The spiritual leaders use spiritual means, with the help of the Holy Spirit to mobilize people into the fulfillment of God's plan.*

3. *Spiritual leaders are accountable to God, have an accountable character in ministry according to the Word of God.*

4. *Spiritual leaders focus on people, leadership focuses on people not budget, vision, or strategy.*

5. *Spiritual leaders influence all people, an important truth is that spiritual leaders can influence all people not just Christians.*

6. *Spiritual leaders work from God's agenda, the biggest hurdle for effective leadership is when a person endeavors to fulfill his own plan and not seek God's will.*

7. *Spiritual leaders hear from God, hear the voice of God by having a close relationship with Him (John 15:5 and Jeremiah 7:13)*⁷

The ability to lead people is an innate capacity. There are various techniques that we can learn to help us become a more effective leader but the ability to lead people is clearly a divine gift.

A leader of course is given the gift that enables him/her to lead to a certain extent, but due to circumstances, certain negative feedback from others, fear or other factors, the divine gift ceases to develop, causing leaders restrained from making full use of their gift.

Spiritual leadership or inspired leadership has the same gift but inspired by the Holy Spirit. These are leaders who are anointed, worshippers who are anointed, whom are appointed to implement various divine strategies to bring God's people into the fulfillment of His plan. They will learn to find time to seek out inspiration in God's presence. Inspired leadership is inspired by the Holy Spirit in business government, or ministry always see things from the perspective and the sovereignty of God.

Moses, an old-testament figure is a man appointed by God during a crisis in the history of God's people. Moses did not possess the least qualifications for the task. Moses knew the only way to accomplish the task was by requesting from the source of wisdom and understanding of God. Humility, meekness, and reliance upon God qualified him to hold the most wanted important position in the history of God's allies.

In the book of Deuteronomy chapter 8 verse 18, God said:

But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.

We should thank the Lord for all His goodness, all the blessings or riches we derive come from the power that He gives. Many biblical passages allude to riches, but much are misunderstood by readers in

comparing the riches with the righteousness of life.

Let us consider the biblical view of wealth:

First, it is not a false thing before God, for example, we read in Genesis 13: 2 that Abraham gained great wealth. In Job 42:10 we see God once blessing Job but although wealth is a proof of God's blessing. The Book of Proverbs, Jeremiah, 1 Timothy and James all teach believers to believe in God as a source and not to riches (Proverbs 11: 4, 28, Jeremiah 9:23; 1 Timothy 6:17, James 1:11, 5:2)

Second, the rich people in the Bible are blamed not for their wealth but the way they gain the wealth. The prophet Amos in the old covenant (4:11, 5:11) does not approve of the injustice of obtaining wealth by oppressing the weak. The Book of Mica also disagrees with Israel's attitude toward the weak. Both the prophet Amos and Mica only highlight the injustices of ways to gain wealth and not wealth itself.

Third, Christians should be more aware of the impact of that wealth on their lives. Proverbs 30: 8- 9 and Hosea 13: 6 say that riches tempt us to forget God. Blessed people are more likely to be out of focus on God because they can meet their basic daily needs. Preachers 2 and 5 say that blessed people cannot really enjoy their riches. The millionaires also behave that way. Furthermore, Proverbs 28:11 and Jeremiah 9:23 warn that wealth usually causes people

to be arrogant and proud.

So biblically, blessings and riches are not wrong but God says that when we are blessed we must focus on God and we should not be dissolved in the effects of that wealth.

The main thing we need to understand is the stewardship of what God has given us. A manager is someone who manages the treasures and finances of others. As Christians, we are managers, and we must recognize that the wealth we possess is not really ours, it is a gift from God.

Every good and perfect gift comes from God (James 1:17). Ultimately, God is the source of everything you have. So even though we work hard in your work, God is still the source of our financial success. Without God's blessing on our lives, we do not have the ability to succeed. God does not give us wealth but empowers us to gain wealth, which means that the knowledge, wisdom, ideas, concepts and insights we must have come from God. This is a biblical study that should be owned by a Christian businessman or Theopreneur.

The Theopreneur must have the following paradigm:

1. They must rely on God to run their business. They realize that the wealth they earn comes from God.
2. They should be grateful for the inclusion of God in their efforts. They are managers of God-given wealth.

The Theopreneurs must implement

the Theopreneurial Leadership that is integrating the concept of Theopreneurship and leadership is integral so that God's plan is fulfilled in their lives and the impact will affect the marketplace where they are.

THEOPRENEURIAL LEADERSHIP

Theopreneurial Leadership is an ability of God's spiritual blessing with the help of the Holy Ghost in the form of talents a Theopreneur must have to manage all the resources of God by implementing the concept of entrepreneurship and leadership on a biblical principle to accomplish goals according to His design for the glory of His name.

Patrice Tsague author of The Biblical Entrepreneurship Market Series concludes there are 12 biblical economic principles that will help us effectively use our talents in striving:

1. God has given each of us talents in the form of gifts, skills and treasures based on our abilities.
2. We each have a responsibility to exercise wise stewardship over our talents through trade.
3. Whenever there is trade, there must be profit.
4. Profit is the fruit of proper stewardship and not the reward.
5. Talents are given to be traded and not hidden.
6. Each of us must render an account for the use of our talents.
7. The reward of our stewardship is

the increase of our responsibility and the entrance into the joy of the Lord (The ultimate fulfillment)

8. Each of us will receive equal rewards in spite of the number of talents we start out with.

9. The root cause of poor stewardship over the talents God has given us is often fear.

10. Those who, hide their talents are considered wicked and slothful.

11. God's economy rewards productivity and punishes unproductivity.

12. God's economy is not fair; it is just

As for the twelve biblical economic principles:

1. God has given us talents in the form of grace, skill and treasure in our capacity. Grace is the spiritual blessing of God given to us through the Holy Spirit to fulfill His plan. Skill is the gift of God in the form of natural skills, techniques, or special skills that use the hands, body and mind. Treasure is wealth in the form of valuables and money. This talent in the business world is known as an asset that can be used for profit.

2. We each have a responsibility to exercise wise stewardship over our talents through trade, the responsibility in this context gives a sense of obedience to the management of things. Keeping other people's possessions either in business or not, God wants us to use our talents or treasures as well as possible.

3. Whenever there is a trade, there must be a profit, God wants us to double the assets or talents entrusted in our management.

4. Profit is the fruit of proper stewardship and not the reward, in Biblical entrepreneurship, business profit is not a gift as a theopreneur or a good manager.

The business benefits are used to:

a. To reinvest in the business-many Theopreneurs are too focused or raise their level of life so as to reinvent their efforts to increase business capacity, so that it can serve more people, this should be the goal of every business.

b. Enhance your products and services- many Theopreneurs start a business with good products and services, but over time try to take advantage of cost savings but forget about quality. Theopreneurs must produce products and services at competitive prices but do not sacrifice quality

c. To fulfill God's covenant-Deuteronomy 8:18, God empowers us to gain wealth to confirm His covenant. The business profits earned are used for feeding for the poor (Leviticus 19:10), giving drink to the thirsty (John 6:35), providing the place (John 14: 2), giving clothes (Genesis 3: 10-11), and visiting the sick (Psalm 30: 2).

5. Talents are given to be traded, and not hidden we cannot use money or work to measure whether we are in the goal or not.

6. Each of us must render an account for the use of our talents, each of us responsible for the use of our talents.
7. The reward of our stewardship is the ultimate fulfillment, the reward for good talent management will be given responsibility in big things and participate together in the happiness of God.
(Matthew 25:21)
8. Each of us will receive equal rewards in spite of the number of talents we start out with, God will give the same reward regardless of talent, most importantly we must use our talents proportionally.
9. The root cause of poor stewardship over the talents God has many feared Christians who recognize God's work but forget His ways. Do not let fear block the use of talents.
10. Those who hide their talents are considered wicked and slothful, talents should be used for the glory of God and not stored.
11. God's economy rewards productivity and punishes unproductivity, God wants us to appreciate the talents given and manage them for His glory.
12. God's economy is not fair; it is just, many people including Christians are more concerned about honesty. In God's economy, honesty is irrelevant but justice is in line with God's character and the fulfillment of His most important plan.

The Theopreneurs must realize that the center of their activity is not

focused on wealth or power but complements God's plan for their lives. They will build their lives and efforts on the basis of biblical truth. The Theopreneurs must recognize that they are temporary managers and not owners of God's blessings or riches.

Theopreneurship consists of two components of the word Theo and Preneurship. Theo is derived from the word theology and preneurship derived from the word entrepreneurship. These two words are rarely combined and even as if they are considered opposites.

Theology is often associated with restrictive and limiting signs of thought, cultural development and belief. Instead entrepreneurship deals with the breaking of ideas, habits and beliefs.

The area of theology is often considered sacred, away from money and buying and selling, otherwise the area of entrepreneurship is often considered primarily in the business world. By introducing "Theopreneurship" the authors want to show that both words can have a synergistic effect, both theology and entrepreneurship can be highly compatible and can be constructive partners. Christian theology, for example, includes a creative and innovative concept of God.

The God who created not only the world and everything in it but also His loyal love is always new every

morning. Such a theology should be an inspiration for the formation of creative, constructive, dynamic and innovative leadership characters in religion as well as in work, profession and business.

Based on Matthew 25:14 and the twelve biblical economic principles above, the authors define Theopreneurship as a concept of merging between Theology and Entrepreneurship which results in a process of identifying business opportunities and with calculated risks to solve problems that arise and acting as a manager to run the business in principle Theology based on biblical principles to gain profit.

The Bible is the ultimate guide in Theopreneurship and whatever is done must be based on God's word, this is to ensure we remain in God's will as we go through the process of using our gifts, our skills and our treasures in business. Our focus should be on the God who gives them all.

To add a broader view of the Theopreneurship, the author tries to deal with the source of several verses from the Bible:

a. From Genesis 1:28, God blessed them, and God said to them: "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and abide it, and rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, and over every living creature that creepeth on the earth. The definition of Theopreneurship based on Genesis 1:28 is the

empowerment of our talents to manage the resources given by God.

b. From 1 Corinthians 12: 4-7:

Verse 4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

Verse 5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.

Verse 6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.

Verse 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit *of all*.

The definition of Theopreneurship based on 1 Corinthians 12: 4-7 is the use of our talents to meet the natural needs in the body of Christ.

c. From Proverbs 3: 5, 13-15

Verse 5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding;

Verse 13 Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding,

Verse 14 for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold,

Verse 15 She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her.

The definition of Theopreneurship based on Proverbs 3: 5, 13-15 is to do business based on the word of God, and not on the system of the world or in the mind of our flesh.

d. Acts 1: 8, But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.

The definition of Theopreneurship based on Acts 1: 8 is to be a witness to God in the corporate world.

The conclusion of Theopreneurship is to speak to God who has granted the ability, the skills, the grace and the treasures administered to the glory of God, using it will occur the process of identifying business opportunities, problem solving and managing the business according to the Word of God and be the testimony of the Lord Jesus in business world.

The understanding of Theopreneurial Leadership which implements Theopreneurship and leadership concept in this Spiritual Leadership comprehensively will help the Theopreneur in doing his business in biblical principle for God's glory, besides they also know that they are created to manage God's creation in this world and the wealth earned is belongs to God.

CONCLUSION

1. Theopreneur is a manager wealth and blessing. God entrusted in principle to Theopreneurial Leadership the glory of God.
2. Theopreneur must apply biblical principles in managing their business.
3. Theopreneur uses business or business as a platform to deliver the good news so that many souls are won and the marketplace as a service field.

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